

## **Announcing my re-election plans:**

As you know from all the media attention on the presidential race, it is an election year again. Now in my fourth year in the Iowa House of Representatives, I am announcing that I am running for re-election. I represent House District 97, which is comprised of Page, Fremont, and eastern Mills counties. I have enjoyed serving the people of this district and look forward to serving you for another term. I am the ranking member on the House Judiciary Committee, serve on the Economic Growth and Environmental Protection Committees, and on the Justice Systems Budget Subcommittee which sets the budget for the judicial branch, public safety, and the department of corrections. My wife, Pam, and I live in Clarinda. We have three grown daughters and two grandchildren. You may visit my website at: [www.richanderson.us](http://www.richanderson.us)

## **Funnel Week:**

Last week was a turning point in the legislative session – funnel week. Bills must be passed out of committee by the funnel week deadline to remain alive on the path to becoming a law. During funnel week the Capitol hums with activity as legislators, lobbyists and citizens work to keep their ideas alive. Usually, only a few hundred bills make it through the funnel. Every year, legislators introduce thousands of bills from ideas constituents like you propose. Only about 200 make it down to the governor's office.

Now that the funnel week has passed, the agenda for the rest of the session is pretty well set. Among the issues that made it through the funnel are bills which seek to improve Iowa's health care system, address the burden of property taxes, and fund the maintenance needs of Iowa's roads and schools. Others issues that remain are dealing with prison infrastructure needs, the statewide smoking ban, and a proposal to expand Iowa's bottle deposit bill. These issues and the state's budget will occupy the remainder of the session. While we have reached the half-way point, there is a lot of work to be done before the 2008 legislative session is completed.

## **Health Care:**

I am pleased with one step forward that we made this week. A bipartisan bill, addressing some of the major concerns Iowans have about health care, overwhelmingly passed in the House. The bill heads to the Senate for their consideration. House File 2539 addresses six major areas of concern for Iowans and does the following:

- Helps Iowans who change policies or groups under the same company to avoid some of the ***pre-existing condition issues***
- Gives parents the option of continuing ***coverage for unmarried adult children to age 25***
- ***Helps small businesses*** provide health care coverage for their employees
- Coordinates ***Electronic Health Records and Health Information Technology***
- Improves coordination and implementation of ***chronic disease prevention and care management***
- Helps more Iowans participate in ***wellness activities***

## **Public Service Employment Opportunity for Youth**

I want to announce an exceptional opportunity for young people to dedicate their time and energy to serving others through public service: The Corporation for National and Community Service will open their newest **AmeriCorps National Civilian Community Corps** (NCCC) campus in June 2008. Located in Vinton, Iowa, this campus will host nearly 160 AmeriCorps members in a full-time, team-based, 10-month residential program for men and women ages 18-24. Teams of 10-12 young people will address unmet needs that are identified by local and national nonprofit organizations and government agencies (such as Habitat for Humanity, the American Red Cross, Camp Courageous in Monticello, and Miracles in Motion Handicapped Horsemen in Cedar Rapids). AmeriCorps is currently recruiting members and team leaders. Deadlines for these positions are quickly approaching! Any organization interested in hosting an AmeriCorps NCCC team in their community can do so by filling out a project sponsor application. If you are interested in employment please go to the USAJOBS website, [www.cns.gov/about/employment/index.asp](http://www.cns.gov/about/employment/index.asp). There are several job announcements posted. For more information about AmeriCorps NCCC, please visit [www.americorps.gov/for\\_individuals/choose/nccc.asp](http://www.americorps.gov/for_individuals/choose/nccc.asp).

Representative Richard Anderson

Iowa House of Representatives

House District 97