

Peter Cownie
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Sixtieth District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3221
e-mail -
peter.cownie@legis.state.ia.us

HOME ADDRESS
686 58th Place
West Des Moines, IA 50266
Home: (515) 664-8341



House of Representatives

State of Iowa
Eighty-Third General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

COMMITTEES
Appropriations
Economic Growth
Education
Labor

APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE
Economic Development,
Ranking Member

Newsletter #6
2-23-09

The current General Assembly should be doing everything within its means to improve Iowa's economy. America is experiencing historic downturns in the stock market, housing market, and the banking industry, and unemployment is rising in Iowa and the nation. The primary question that legislators should be asking themselves is what they can do to help improve the economy. Legislators should be asking these three questions when looking at every bill that comes to a vote this session: 1) Does this legislation grow Iowa's economy? 2) Does this legislation create more jobs? 3) Does this legislation encourage employers to invest in our state?

The Legislature also needs to think about the future generation of Iowans. How can we best help them to attain the skills necessary to succeed in life? I believe that every student in Iowa should receive specific financial literacy education in his/her school. Last year, the Legislature took a good first step in requiring financial literacy to be part of the core curriculum for our schools. However, the Legislature did not go far enough.

The current financial literacy curriculum is not specific enough in nature. I believe every student in Iowa should know how to balance a checkbook, learn the danger of a credit card, the responsibilities regarding a home mortgage, and the merits of saving money. These are skills and knowledge lacking in our society. I have drafted a bill that will do precisely this. The Legislature can take an important step for the future of all Iowans by passing this legislation. Everyday the Legislature needs to work at getting Iowa back to economic prosperity. We also need to keep in mind the next generation of Iowans. It is our job to ensure they do not encounter the same problems we are experiencing. It is every legislator's duty to serve all Iowans even the ones who do not yet have the right to vote.

Peter Cownie (R-West Des Moines), represents District 60 in the Iowa House of Representatives. The district includes most of West Des Moines in Polk County. He can be reached via e-mail at Peter.Cownie@legis.state.ia.us or by phone at 281-3221.