

BILLD ALUMNI NOTES: NEWS FROM GRADUATES

South Dakota Sen. Jean Hunhoff (class of 2001) was appointed chair of the Senate Appropriations Committee and co-chair of the Joint Appropriations Committee. She also serves as vice chair of the interim Rules Committee. For the past two years, Sen. Hunhoff has been a member of the Mental Health Services Delivery Task Force, a group studying access to mental health services in the state. She recently was named Legislator of the Year by the South Dakota Association of Health Care Organizations for her work in support of health care providers.



Illinois Rep. Will Guzzardi (class of 2016) serves as co-chair of the Illinois House Progressive Caucus, a group he helped found in 2019. Last year, Rep. Guzzardi sponsored legislation (HB 3665) creating the Joe Coleman Medical Release Act. It allows individuals in custody who are suffering from a terminal illness or medical incapacitation to file a medical release application. He also sponsored a housing omnibus bill (HB 2621) to increase the availability of affordable housing in Illinois as well as the I-DROP Act (HB 119), which allows unused medication in sealed, tamper-evident packaging to be donated to patients in need.



Indiana Sen. Liz Brown (class of 2017) served on the Indiana Schools for the Deaf and Blind or Visually Impaired Task Force in 2020. That panel issued recommendations related to the operation of facilities, and this year, Gov. Eric Holcomb announced a site for both schools based on the task force's work. Also this year, Sen. Brown sponsored SB 251, a measure for Indiana to join the Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. It was signed into law in March.



Former Nebraska Sen. Adrian Smith (class of 2001) has been a member of the U.S. House of Representatives since 2007 and is currently seeking a ninth term. In January, he was named the Republican leader of the House Ways & Means Subcommittee on Trade. U.S. Rep. Smith also has announced plans to pursue his legislative caucus's top position on the U.S. House Ways & Means Committee (starting next session). In response to the crisis in Ukraine, he introduced federal legislation earlier this year to revoke Russia's Permanent Normal Trade Relations Status.



In March, **North Dakota Sen. Erin Oban** (class of 2015) resigned her legislative seat prior to the end of her term this year in order to accept an appointment from President Joe Biden to serve as state director for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Development in North Dakota.



Since leaving the Legislature in 2012, **former Iowa Rep. Renee Schulte** (class of 2009) has owned her own consulting firm, which is focused on developing and improving mental health systems. In this capacity, she has worked with several states in evaluating their systems. Recently, Schulte was appointed as an alternate member of the Iowa Parole Board.



Have news to share? Please submit items for Alumni Notes to Laura Tomaka, CSG Midwest program manager for BILLD. She can be reached at ltomaka@csrg.org.

GAVEL READY? IDEAS FROM BILLD FACULTY, ALUMS ON EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP OF LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEES

There are important leadership skills that support effective and efficient committee processes. These skills are not innate and can be developed with intentionality to prepare legislators to conduct committee meetings with optimal performance when the opportunity presents itself. Key areas to focus on to achieve desired outcomes include:

- Committing to intentional relationship building with fellow legislators and staff members.
- Agreeing on shared ground rules for engagement for committee processes with all committee members.
- Focusing on proactive habits, proactive mindset, accountability and clarity of communication.
- Reflecting on what processes would be beneficial to continue, improve, start or stop.

The leadership necessary to manage committee meetings that produce positive outcomes in both process and legislation takes time and intentional focus. One of the best ways a legislator can develop these skills is to turn to other members they observe managing the committee process well and emulating their example.

J. Scott Raecker is executive director of The Robert D. and Billie Ray Center at Drake University. As a state representative in Iowa from 1999-2012, he served in several leadership positions, including as chair of the House Appropriations and Ethics committees. Scott is a 1999 graduate of the BILLD program, past co-chair of the BILLD Steering Committee, and a current faculty member of BILLD.

Guest Commentary:
J. Scott Raecker



ADVICE FROM 3 BILLD ALUMS CURRENTLY SERVING AS LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

IOWA SEN. AMY SINCLAIR | CLASS OF 2016 | SENATE EDUCATION COMMITTEE CHAIR

"Know and follow the rules and begin the committee on time. The notion of 'legislative time' as acceptable disregards the value of other people's schedules. It's important to have a complete agenda and stick to it. It's helpful to keep the routine part of the agenda the same for each convening of the committee so that members can anticipate and follow the flow of the meeting.

Whether it is circulated to the entire committee or for your use only, include a description of each bill and the chair and subcommittee members for reference, as well as a full description of any additional materials related to the bills such as amendments. ... Efficiency can be accomplished by sharing this information beforehand with the ranking member of the committee so there are no surprises. It is essential to always be prepared, whether you are the committee chair or a rank-and-file member."

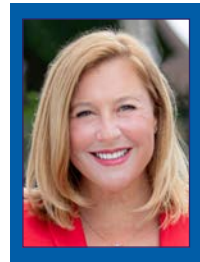


ILLINOIS REP. ANNA MOELLER | CLASS OF 2017 | HOUSE HUMAN SERVICES COMMITTEE CHAIR

"In order to stay on top of all of the bills assigned and to have an understanding of these measures before they are heard in committee, I hold weekly bill-review meetings with staff and department liaisons. We go over each bill, discuss concerns that have been brought by departments, advocates or the public, and talk about whether or not the bill is ready to be heard. ... I try to know as much as I can about the legislation assigned to the committee.

There are parliamentary motions made in committee that are necessary to advance bills or conduct official business. ... It is important to learn the motions and procedures used in committee so the meeting can run smoothly, and business can be conducted efficiently and accurately.

As a committee member, I think it is important for committee members to familiarize themselves with the subject matter that is the focus of the committee. Don't be afraid to ask questions. Show up to meetings and be there on time, and communicate with the chair or your caucus leadership — especially when you have a bill that is assigned to committee and if you plan to have a bill called for a hearing. The chair and committee staff can then plan accordingly."



INDIANA SEN. PHIL BOOTS | CLASS OF 2007 | SENATE PENSIONS AND LABOR COMMITTEE CHAIR

"I approach committee work as an opportunity for legislators to learn and for advocates and the public to have a voice. In this context, it is really important to have an open mind.

I work really hard to allow everyone to weigh in on the subject, and to get their questions answered. It is so important to listen to everybody and seriously consider their comments. People want to know they have been heard."



BILLD Steering Committee Officers | Co-Chairs: Illinois Rep. Anna Moeller and Iowa Sen. Amy Sinclair | Co-Vice Chairs: Michigan Rep. Ann Bollin and Kansas Rep. Jarrod Ousley

Through the Bowhay Institute for Legislative Leadership Development, or BILLD, CSG Midwest provides annual training on leadership and professional development for newer state and provincial legislators from this region. This page provides information related to the BILLD program, leadership development and legislative leadership. CSG's Midwestern Legislative Conference BILLD Steering Committee — a bipartisan group of state and provincial legislators from the Midwest — oversees the program, including the annual selection of BILLD Fellows.