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Iowa Business Council Applauds Gov. Reynolds' Focus on Cultivating the Talent Pipeline in her Condition of the State Address

(DES MOINES) – The Iowa Business Council (IBC) today released a statement following Iowa Gov. Kim Reynolds' Condition of the State address, which the governor delivered before a joint session of the Iowa General Assembly.

"Today, we heard Governor Reynolds provide a clear vision for addressing one of Iowa's largest challenges: the lack of available workforce to fill an expanding economy," said IBC Chair Mary Andringa of Vermeer Corporation. "We will continue to support the bipartisan Future Ready Iowa initiative, and will work with lawmakers and the governor's administration for further funding of the Last Dollar Scholarship and the Employer Innovation Fund. These programs serve tangible purposes to upskill the current workforce to meet demand and provide incentive to public-private partnerships that address real barriers to workforce participation."

The Iowa Business Council's [2020 legislative agenda](#) includes:

- **Future Ready Iowa:** IBC will continue to support investments in the Future Ready Iowa initiative, including the Last Dollar Scholarship and Employer Innovation Fund, and other efforts that enhance the development of a talented workforce.
- **Child care:** As the IBC conducted forums statewide in 2019, child care concerns were continually raised as it relates to workforce development. As a result, the IBC supports efforts to further address the child care cliff effect while also increasing access to high quality, affordable child care.
- **Competitive tax policy:** To continue to strengthen Iowa's economic climate, the IBC will remain engaged in efforts that provide a simple, transparent, and stable tax structure. The IBC supports the tax reform efforts of 2018 and will support continued efforts in 2020 to make Iowa's tax code more competitive for all taxpayers.
- **Workforce housing:** The availability of adequate workforce housing directly impacts the economic climate in Iowa's communities. Therefore, the IBC supports the expansion of the workforce housing tax credit and increased investment in the state housing trust fund.

For more information on the Iowa Business Council, please visit www.IowaBusinessCouncil.org.

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About the Iowa Business Council

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose 23 members are the chief decision makers of major Iowa employers. One in six jobs in Iowa are tied to an IBC company. IBC member companies have invested billions of dollars of capital in Iowa's commercial infrastructure; lead the way in technology innovation, R&D, and grants procured; and are often the driving financial and volunteer forces behind philanthropic efforts all over the state.

IBC member companies include: Alliant Energy; Casey's General Stores, Inc.; Collins Aerospace; Corteva Agriscience; Deere & Company; Fareway; FBL Financial Group, Inc.; HNI Corporation; Hy-Vee, Inc.; Iowa Bankers Association; Kent Corporation; MercyOne; Meredith Corporation; MidAmerican Energy Company; Pella Corporation; Principal; Ruan Transportation

Management Systems; UnityPoint Health; The University of Iowa Health Care; Vermeer Corporation; The Weitz Company; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa; and Wells Enterprises, Inc.