

*There was a time in my life when I didn't vote. I didn't know the difference between the Iowa Legislature and the US Congress. I didn't understand the process and didn't believe that my voice or vote mattered.*

**I was wrong!** Every vote and every voter does matter and more now than ever! I know you care about the lowans you serve and want what is best for them and that you care about your profession, your ability to make a decent living, pay your bills, and have access to affordable health care for yourself and your family. As Belinda Ely, a Direct Care Professional, once said, "I've had a lot of candidates stop at my door and when I start asking questions about health care, they all give me the information I want to hear and agree with me, but I want to see whoever is elected follow through. I'm not asking for a hand-out, I just want a fair shake from the government."

Iowa CareGivers does not endorse candidates and our role is NOT to tell you who to vote for, but rather to provide you with the tools you need to make the informed decisions that are right for you and the issues you care about. This year you will vote for one of three candidates for the Governor of Iowa, Fred Hubbell (Democrat), the incumbent (current) Governor Kim Reynolds (Republican), or Jake Porter, libertarian candidate (<https://jakeporter.org/>). In addition, you will have the opportunity to vote on local candidates for the legislature, and candidates for the US House of Representatives. — Di Findley, Executive Director, Iowa CareGivers

**We asked Fred Hubbell and Kim Reynolds to answer two questions that Iowa CareGivers submitted to them on your behalf. Below are their responses to our questions:**

**Why should I, as a direct care worker or family caregiver, vote for you in 2018?**

More than 170,000 lowans work in direct care professions - social workers, nurses, home-based care providers, child care workers, and health aides. The work is often selfless and physically demanding, but we depend on these professionals to provide genuine care for our family members, friends, and colleagues.

For years to come, Iowa will need care workers who are skilled, valued for their contributions to society, and provided fair compensation in return. As a fifth generation lowan, father and grandfather, I feel a responsibility to ensure Iowa continues to be a great place to grow up, work, raise a family, and live out our best years regardless of what life brings.

I've worked throughout my career to expand access to health care in Iowa and support those who provide it. That includes my time on the board of Mercy Hospital, as Chair of Planned Parenthood, and while helping Broadlawns hospital expand their mental health services.

I'm running for Governor to restore fiscal responsibility and put a balanced budget behind the right priorities, including investments in health care and workforce training. I have a proven record in the public and private sectors and know how to get our state back on track. For all these reasons, I am respectfully asking for your support.



Fred Hubbell

**Why should I, as a direct care worker or family caregiver, vote for you in 2018?**

There are nearly 317,000 family caregivers in the state of Iowa. These are the unsung heroes who give their hearts every day to ensure their loved ones are able to stay home. Their efforts also equate to nearly \$4 billion in care each year. The Family Caregiver Program works to provide family caregivers with the resources they need to enhance and extend their ability to care for a loved one over a long period of time. This program offers:

- Information and assistance to find services available to help the caregiver (like chores, home-delivered meals, etc.)
- Counseling and education to help caregivers sort through challenges, identify possible solutions; provide training for caregivers in the areas of health, nutrition and financial literacy; organize peer support groups.
- Respite care to temporarily relieve caregivers from their stressful caregiving responsibilities
- These are programs and services that make a real difference. Caregivers report that these are the services that allow them to provide better care for their loved one for longer than otherwise possible
- Iowa has a system of support to meet the basic needs of caregivers, but my administration is working to make it even better. The Department on Aging is turning their focus to revitalizing our family caregiver program to make sure the program is consistent statewide and tailored to meet the needs of caregivers today.



Governor Kim Reynolds

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**For more information contact Iowa CareGivers:**

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**If elected, how will you use public resources to address issues faced by these two distinct caregiver groups?**

Many direct care positions are supported, at least in part, by state government and its programs. Through Medicaid, child and family services, and child care tuition grants, Iowa contracts with hundreds of businesses and facilities across the state. Within a balanced budget, my administration will work to expand early childhood education, including fully funding universal pre-K for four year olds to foster better education for Iowa's kids and put more dollars into the local economy.

For many years, it has been hard to attract and retain qualified health care workers in rural parts of the state. We should re-examine those efforts and explore strategies to increase compensation, develop public-private partnerships, improve portability of training credentials, and look into forgivable loans and scholarships for high-demand health care professions. My administration will recognize the value of family and professional caregivers, listen to you, and work with you to improve the health care of our state.



**If elected, how will you use public resources to address issues faced by these two distinct caregiver groups?**

With Iowa's increasingly aging population, I also understand the importance of addressing a shortage of direct care workers. As with all professions, we are looking at innovative ways to address our workforce shortage. The Governor's STEM Advisory Council has focused on working side-by-side with teachers and industry professionals to craft curriculum and projects that prepare students for exciting career pathways in STEM fields, including medicine.

- Earlier this year, students from a consortium of schools in North Iowa, Iowa BIG North, finalized a partnership with a local nursing facility, Chautauqua Guest Homes, to create a Certified Nursing Assistant program to give students a great career springboard.
- This is an example of the great things that can happen through community collaborations involving school and business partnerships. This is the sort of innovative public-private partnership we hope the Future Ready Iowa initiative will encourage across the state.
- We anticipate seeing more of this great work because the Future Ready Iowa Alliance has already identified that the very best way to educate parents and students about high-skilled career opportunities available in Iowa is through work-based learning opportunities in our K-12 schools.



**MAKE SURE YOUR VOTE COUNTS! PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS AS A VOTER!**

**You Can Also Help By Sharing This Information With Those You Serve!**

**There are changes in voter ID requirements and new deadlines this year.** *To help you navigate these changes - don't worry, they are not that complicated, but like everything it pays to be informed and plan ahead - here are a few resources for you:*

**For information about voter registration, absentee ballots, voter ID requirements and other information about the election contact:**

**Iowa Secretary of State:** <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/voterinformation/voterregistration.html>

**You may also contact your local county auditor with questions.** <https://sos.iowa.gov/elections/auditors/auditorslist.html>

**For information about your rights as a voter, go to:**

**Voting Rights for Iowans:** <http://idaction.org/documents/cms/docs/Vote-Materials/Voting-Rights-for-Iowans.pdf>

(Source: Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council (IDDC))

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