



## Iowa Lobby Day 2017

73 degree temperatures welcomed dental hygienists and students to Des Moines on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. 57 students representing three dental hygiene programs (Des Moines Area Community College, Hawkeye Community College, and Kirkwood Community College) joined 12 faculty and hygienists at the Capitol. Tom Cope, the Iowa Dental Hygienists' Association lobbyist, scheduled visits with Senator Bill Dix, Senate Majority Leader, Representative Chris Hagenow, House of Representatives Majority Leader, Senator Rob Hogg, Senate Minority Leader, and Dr. Bob Russell, Dental Director & Bureau Chief, Oral & Health Delivery Systems Bureau, Iowa Department of Public Health.

Some members and students were also able to meet and discuss IDHA concerns with their legislators. Legislators were given a toothbrush, toothpaste, softpicks and information about dental hygienists.



The IDHA SSB 1164 bill to allow dental hygienists to present oral health programs without the supervision of a dentist has been assigned to the Human Resources Committee. Senator Segebart is sponsoring our bill.

All legislators approached gave positive feedback regarding the IDHA bill and, with no opposition from other groups, they thought it would have no problem passing through both the House and Senate.



Representative Scott Ourth gave us a tour of the House and explained the legislative process and the importance of everyone taking the time to learn about the issues, contacting their legislators and voting for the legislators who represent their values.

Carol Van Aernam RDH, BA  
IDHA Legislative Chair