



A week of steady progress.

This week at the State Capitol, lawmakers focused on the nuts and bolts of governance, ensuring the smooth passage of routine bills and measures.

Many of the bills I've been particularly interested in this session focus on improving and streamlining the regulations and supporting healthcare providers interested in practicing in our State to get licensed and working. House Bill 1012, establishing a licensing compact for counselors, has been sent to the Governor for her signature. House Bill 1017, establishing a licensure compact for psychologists, will soon be on its way to the Governor's desk. House Bill 1074 is another bill that will make getting routine care close to home easier by expanding the eligibility to practice as a dental hygienist. The hygienist would still be under a dentist's collaborative supervision, helping ensure reliable care. HB1074 was delivered to the Governor at the end of last week.

Keeping our smaller communities healthy depends on allowing qualified practitioners to get to work serving patients.

Breaking out of the routine business, Governor Noem requested the opportunity to address a joint session of the legislature to give an update on problems at our country's Southern Border with illegal immigration. Like all the other states, South Dakota has passed the Uniform Emergency Management Assistance Compact (EMAC). It's also federal law. The purpose of the EMAC is for states to be able to provide mutual assistance in case of emergency or disaster.

The EMAC has been used to deploy the National Guard to other states on multiple occasions. Three years ago, South Dakota was the first State to send National Guard troops to help defend the Southern Border. For many reasons, this is a serious and important issue.

I look forward to hearing more about how our State can support securing our Nation's Borders.

Also, this week, we welcomed 71 first-year medical students from USD. The students spearheaded the idea to visit the legislature, and it laid the foundation for understanding health policy and encouraging an interest in advocacy within the medical field. The primary objective was to familiarize these budding physicians with the accessibility of state government and introduce them to the role played by the state legislature regulating medical practice.

Throughout the visit, the students had the opportunity to witness firsthand how public policy decisions at the state level can significantly impact the delivery of healthcare. The event not only marked the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the School of Medicine but also served as a crucial stepping stone for the Class of 2027 in understanding the intersection of medicine and policy.

The students were accompanied by USD President Sheila K. Gestring, Dr. Tim Ridgway, Dr. Susan Anderson, Dr. Lori Hansen, Arica Schuknecht, Education Coordinator, and Mercedes Kotalik, Program Assistant for Clinical Foundations of Medicine.

If you'd like to visit while the legislature is in session or at another time of the year, my website has information about visiting the Capitol. <https://www.votesydneydavis.com/visiting-pierre>

The Senate confirmed the appointment of Brad Moore, Dakota Dunes, to the Board of Economic Development. Brad is the Chief Executive Officer and owner of Sterling Computers Corporation, headquartered in North Sioux City, SD, and has been recognized as one of the top 500 Information Technology Solutions companies in the United States. Brad has been an active member of the community, serving on various boards of community and youth non-profits, local banks, and industry associations, and is currently a board member for The Siouxland Initiative. Congratulations to Brad and his family.

Mark your calendars for the District 17 Legislative Coffee on Saturday, February 10, at 9:00 am at the Vermillion City Council Chambers. I appreciate the involvement and investment in our community by the Vermillion Area Chamber and Development Company. Thank you to the VCDC and their Governmental Affairs Committee for hosting this community event. If you cannot attend in person, the event will be live-streamed on the VCDC Facebook page or Local Channel 3.

As your representative in Pierre, your opinions, questions, and concerns about our State's business are very important to me.

Because of the volume of emails legislators receive, I prioritize emails from District 17 residents. You can help out by including where you live in your email. Contact me at Sydney.Davis@sdlegislature.gov.