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**TRICIA GAVIN STATEMENT ON COMMENTS BY  
SEN. CHARLES SCHNEIDER**

***Democrat Tricia Gavin vows to stand up for ALL Iowans***

WEST DES MOINES, IA -- Tricia Gavin, Democratic candidate for the 22nd State Senate District, issued the following statement on recent comments made by Charles Schneider and other Republican legislators regarding the upcoming legislative session.

“On Monday, Jan. 6, an article titled “Amid Election Year, Iowa Legislative Leaders Vow Focus On Policy” was published by The Cedar Rapids Gazette. In this article, Republican State senators, including District 22’s Charles Schneider, made claims that despite 2020 being an election year, they were ready to focus on policy rather than politics. Iowans cannot help wonder why issues such as education and mental health were not prioritized sooner.

In a recent post to his Facebook page, Schneider insisted that “education in Iowa is working!” However, our public universities have been declining in national rankings, in correlation with decreases in funding for the Department of Education that Schneider has supported.

Iowa is also lagging in its long-term mental health solutions. It is recommended that states have 50 beds for acute care for every 100,000 residents. Iowa currently has a shocking two beds per 100,000 residents available. The lack of attention to these issues prior to the election year makes it unlikely that the Republican Senate will address these critical problems while working on re-election.

When Schneider states that “just because it’s an election year it doesn’t mean we can’t do big things,” he implies that he does indeed do “big things” during non-election years. However, unless Schneider considers underfunding our public universities, or neglecting to promote funding to fix our mental healthcare system his “big things,” he is letting those he represents, and the entire State of Iowa, down.

Iowa deserves representatives who prioritize these issues, not a senator who gets to them conveniently during an election cycle. Funding for the improvement of education and public mental health care services needs to be allocated in order to stop these crises that impact Iowans.

Schneider has had the opportunity to focus on this, yet he's missed his chance at every turn. The time for true representation of all Iowans is now. I will fight for every Iowan when elected."

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*About Tricia Gavin:*

*Gavin, who lives in West Des Moines, is a product marketing manager for credit unions. She grew up in eastern Iowa, and graduated with a bachelor's degree in marketing from the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. She previously worked as Marketing Division Manager for Allstate Insurance, in business transformation at the U.S. Department of Defense, and in acquisition programs for the U.S. Coast Guard. She is a graduate of the Emerge Iowa Training program. For more information, visit [www.triciagavinforsenate.com](http://www.triciagavinforsenate.com).*