



Political Action Update

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IFL Legislative Conference attendees lobby representatives at Capitol

As a blizzard rolled into Iowa, a blizzard of Union Activists rolled into the Iowa State Capitol on February 26, as a part of the Iowa Federation of Labor's Legislative Conference Lobby Day.

Over 100 union members from all over the state, called on their Democratic and Republican Representatives, with several issues.

The delegates were asked to specifically talk to the representatives on these issues: minimum wage, support the use of American made products in Public Improvements, oppose voter suppression laws and pass allowable and categorical growth for our children.

Many of those lobbying sent pictures and information via Twitter, Facebook and emails, as was part of the training at the conference.

Another picture on page 3

Report from the Legislature.....

Charlie Wishman, IFL Secretary-Treasurer

Things continue to move slowly at the Iowa Statehouse. Senate File 110 passed the Iowa House and Senate and is now on its way to the Governor. The bill enacts penalties on companies that fail to provide information on unemployment claims, and also penalizes people engaged in fraud in the unemployment system. It was a bill that had to be passed by October of this year, and without passage the Federal Government would enact extreme penalties against Iowa's unemployment trust fund.

Voter suppression efforts have been a hot topic of debate at the Iowa Statehouse lately as well, having multiple subcommittees this past week. Many House Republicans favor a requirement for voters to show I.D. at the polls. At first glance, many people may not understand why that's a bad idea. It becomes a bad idea once you understand how many elderly do not have IDs, how many students do not have IDs with current addresses, how people who have just moved to the state may not have a current ID, and that for those people obtaining the necessary birth records or required information to get an ID, costs people time and money. That's called a "poll tax," and charging people to vote is not just wrong, it's illegal. Even if the state were to give free IDs to anyone who requested one, then the taxpayer, too, is footing the bill for an imaginary problem. In the last election, out of 1.9 million voters, 8

people (less than 1/10 of 1%) were charged with voter registration fraud. Iowa has clean and fair elections, and make no mistake this is not about protecting the vote, it's about suppressing and intimidating potential voters.

Medicaid Expansion also is a serious issue that needs to be addressed. As part of the Affordable Care Act (aka "Obamacare"), the Federal Government will cover persons up to 138% of the federal poverty level, using 100% federal funds, and then gradually moving down to cover 90% of the cost over the next few years. Governor Branstad has signaled that he does not want to expand Medicaid in this state, and would prefer to continue a program called "IowaCares." IowaCares is also a Medicaid waiver program, except it covers fewer people with less coverage, and the federal government picks up less than 60% of the bill. If we don't cover these people, that are without coverage, we'll continue to pay a hidden tax in our premiums.

When someone who doesn't have coverage seeks care in an emergency room, the costs are higher and also are passed on to you through higher premiums. So, in other words, we'll pay for covering these people one way or another. Let's do it in a way that makes sense and is part of a larger system that promotes better health by expanding Medicaid as outlined in the Affordable Care Act.

Bills on the Hill

These bills have been introduced since the last mailing of the Iowa Federation of Labor's Political Update. For more information on the IFL's stance on any pending issue, please visit our website at www.iowaaficio.org

SF 41 EMPLOYEE ORGANIZATION OFFICES (Zaun) (Labor)
Prohibits a public employer from providing office space to an employee organization at less than market value. **IFL OPPOSES**

SF 68 WORKPLACE DRUG TESTING (Zaun) (Labor)
Allows private employers to use any kind of drug testing that has been approved by the federal government. Allows an employer to take the same action against an employee for a diluted or altered sample as the employer could take for a positive test.
IFL OPPOSES

SF 69 REPETITIVE INJURY STUDY (Danielson) (Labor)
Requires the Labor Division to study workplaces prone to repetitive motion injuries, in consultation with employer and employee groups, on the economic impact of establishing an ergonomic standard for these workplaces. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 70 US PRODUCTS (Bolkcom & 22 D's) (Economic Growth)
Requires that the iron, steel and manufactured products used in public improvement projects be made in the United States. Establishes penalties for a person who misrepresents the origin of a product in order to get a contract. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 71 MEDICAID EXPANSION (Hatch & 23 D's) (Human Resources)
Expands Medicaid coverage to adults with 133% of the federal poverty level and establishes benefit requirements. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 72 INSURANCE EXCHANGES (Hatch & 14 D's) (Commerce)
Establishes the Iowa Health Benefit Exchange to facilitate the purchase of health insurance plans for qualified employers on or before October 2014. **IFL MONITORING**

SF 85 VOTER ID (Sorenson & all the Republicans) (State Government)
Requires acceptable proof of identification for voting on Election Day or in-person absentee voting to include a photo and be issued by the federal government, the state, a local government or an Iowa college or secondary school.
IFL OPPOSES

SF 88 EARNED INCOME TAX CREDIT (Bolkcom & 22 D's) (Ways & Means)
Makes the Earned Income Tax Credit equal to 20% starting in the 2013 tax year. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 94 STATEWIDE ELECTRICIAN LICENSING (Zaun, Rozenboom & Chelgren) (State Government)
Repeals the provisions on the statewide licensing of electricians and electrical contractors. Directs the State Fire Marshal to develop procedures for prorating the return of license fees.
IFL OPPOSES

SF 123 DOC PROTECTION EMPLOYEES (Taylor) (State Government)
Defines all DOC employees as members of a protection occupation. Allows persons who were DOC employees as of June 2013 to opt out. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 147 AMERICAN MADE FLAGS (Kajtazovic & 7 D's) (State Government)
Requires all US flags sold to be American-made. Allows existing stocks to be sold through December 2013. Requires the DOC to adopt rules on recordkeeping and related matters.
IFL SUPPORTS

HF 149 SICK LEAVE (Isenhardt & Kearns) (Labor)
Creates the Healthy & Safe Families Workplace to Act to require that employers offer either paid or unpaid sick time. Allows employees to accrue up to 144 hours of sick time a year.
IFL SUPPORTS

SF 161 4% CATEGORICAL GROWTH (Education)
Makes the Categorical Growth rate for school foundation aid in for the 2014-15 school year 4%. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 162 4% ALLOWABLE GROWTH (Education)
Makes the Allowable Growth rate for school foundation aid in for the 2014-15 school year 4%. **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 172 TRANSPORTING RR WORKERS (Ernst) (Transportation)
Makes drivers who transport RR workers subject to hours of service similar to those for commercial drivers (no more than 10 hours driving after 8 hours of rest and no more than 15 hours on duty after an 8-hour rest period). **IFL SUPPORTS**

SF 234 SUMMER CAMP WORK (Danielson) (Labor)
States that child labor laws do not prevent minors from working at summer camps. **IFL MONITORING**

SSB 1086 HEALTH COVERAGE WITH THE STATE (State Government)
Allows the employees and officials of a non-state public employer and the employees of a non-profit employer to sign up for health insurance coverage through the state.
IFL MONITORING

SSB 1106 STATE EFFICIENCIES (State Government)

Enacts various government efficiency ideas.

IFL MONITORING

HSB 113 INDEPENDENT EXPENDITURES (State Government)

Strikes current Code language that does not require the identification of shareholders or union members. Requires the disclosure of the name and address of every source of funding over \$25. Requires that a person who makes independent expenditures and who receives donations not intended to further that independent expenditure, to disclose the persons top five donors over the last year. (Ethics & Campaign Board) See **SSB 1114** **IFL MONITORING**

HSB 152 CONDITIONAL EMPLOYMENT (Human Resources)

Allows for conditional employment for various employees (employees of health care facilities, certified nurse aide students, prospective employees of nursing facilities, residential care facilities and other related professions) who after a required records check prior to employment, are subject to a DHS evaluation. **IFL MONITORING**

HSB 150 Governor's Property Tax Reform (Ways & Means)

Reduces the property tax assessment limitation (rollback) for agricultural and residential property to 2%. Reduces the value of commercial property that is taxed by 5% annually for four years from 2013-16 until the taxed assessed value is 80%. Adds commercial and industrial property to the rollback as of 2017. **IFL OPPOSED**

HF 178 FEDERAL HEALTH CARE (Alons & 11 R's) (State Government)

States that the federal health care law exceeds the 10th Amendment and is null and void in the state. Establishes criminal penalties for anyone trying to enforce the provisions of federal law. See **SF 81** **IFL OPPOSES**

HF 233 EMPLOYMENT DISCRIMINATION (Kelley) (Labor)

Prohibits the use of a person's homeownership status or credit history when making employment decisions.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 238 CONTINUING HEALTH COVERAGE (Kelley) (Commerce)

Deems a reduction in the number of hours due to illness or injury as a termination that allows an employee or member to elect to continue coverage under a group accident or health insurance policy that would otherwise terminate.

IFL SUPPORTS

HF 239 HEALTH COVERAGE NOTICES (Kelley) (Commerce)

Requires that members or employees receive 30 days notice of the termination, or substantial modification, of health coverage benefits. **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 259 ELECTRICAL RULES (Pettengill) (State Government)

Gives the State Fire Marshal most of the rulemaking authority of the Electrical Examining Board and replaces the State Fire Marshal on the board. **IFL OPPOSES**

HF 260 PLUMBING RULES (Pettengill) (State Government)

Gives the DPH rulemaking authority over plumbing. Requires the DPH to consult with the Plumbing Board on rules. Requires that records of any closed meetings be available to the Citizen's Aide/Ombudsman without court order for confidential investigations. **IFL OPPOSES**

HF 274 CHOICE OF DOCTOR (Isenhart) (Labor)

Allows an employee to pre-designate a doctor to treat a work-related injury from registry of workplace injury care providers. Allows the employer to choose a doctor if the employee does not pre-designate one. Allows the employee to seek a second opinion at the employer's expense. Allows the employee and employer to agree to alternate care if either is dissatisfied with the treatment. **Other:** Creates a Worker's Comp Advisory Council with three members from labor and three representing employers, to advise the Worker's Comp Commissioner. **IFL MONITOR**

HF 272 WORK & INTERNET ACCESS II (Kelley & 3 D's) (Labor)

Prohibits an employer from asking an employer or applicant for passwords to or access to the person's internet accounts. Prohibits the employer from firing, disciplining or taking other related actions against the person for a failure to grant access **IFL SUPPORTS**

HF 273 RR WALKWAYS (T Taylor) (Labor)

Requires RR walkways to be covered in asphalt, concrete, planks, or crushed or similar materials. Includes provisions on where walkways must be. Allows the DOT to order the construction of other walkways after a hearing. **IFL SUPPORTS**



Legislative Hospitality Night
March 18 : 5 to 8 PM
Machinists Hall
2000 Walker St, Des Moines

IOWA FEDERATION OF LABOR, AFL-CIO

2000 Walker Street, Suite A
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Upcoming ...

- March 11—WIN Burlington
- March 12—WIN Davenport
- March 14—Labor Center Workers' Comp.
- March 18—Legislative Hospitality, DSM
- March 20—WIN Council Bluffs
- March 20—WIN Muscatine
- March 21—WIN Dubuque
- March 21—WIN Mason City
- March 26—WIN Des Moines
- March 26—WIN Keokuk
- March 27—WIN Waterloo
- April 2—QC Next UP

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

2nd annual Iowa AFL-CIO Members Choice Award

Presented for the outstanding video/slide show produced by union members.

Length: 3 minutes max. **Format:** Video or slide show of pictures; music/sound/silent all acceptable

How to submit: Submit as a DVD or flash drive or email to lance@iowaaflico.org

Deadline for Submissions: August 1

For more info: Contact Lance Coles at 515-262-9571 or lance@iowaaflico.org



Next Generation of Central Labor Councils Elected

A new generation of leadership comes into some well established foundations at two Iowa East Coast Central Labor Councils

Quad City Federation of Labor President, Jerry Messer stepped down at the end of 2012, after 26 years as president. Messer will continue to be president of the United Food and Commercial Workers Local 431.

Sherri Riney, also chose not to run again for the president of the Des Moines/Henry County Central Labor Council. Riney has been president for over 10 years.

The delegates of the Quad City Federation of Labor elected Dino Leone to replace Messer. Leone has served as Vice President of Quad City Federation of Labor for fifteen years. He is a member and staff representative with AFSCME Council 31 in Illinois. He was the youngest ever staff representa-



Dino Leone

tive, a position he held for the past twenty five years.

Leone got active in the labor movement when he was sixteen, with an organizing drive of Rock Island County employees.

When Sherri Riney announced she was not going to run again for president of Des Moines/Henry County Central Labor Council, an election was held and Ryan Drew was elected.



Ryan Drew

Drew has worked in the construction field over 17 years and is a member of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 150. In 2005 he started working for the Operators as an organizer out of their Chicago office, then transferred to his home area of Burlington as an organizer and Business Representative.