

Public Hearings on SF 2117 Comments

My name is Matt Chapman.

Chair Grassley, Vice Chair Hinson, Ranking Member Hall and committee members thank you for the opportunity to speak.

There will be many more knowledgeable speakers on the specific impact of cuts, so I will leave it up to them to discuss those details.

I feel these de-appropriations are a symptom of a culture shift and I would like to use my time to address what I believe is driving that change.

One example of those drivers can be seen in legislation that has been introduced by both chambers this year that would mandate drug testing, work requirements and quarterly recertification for SNAP or Medicaid eligible lowans.

In Florida not only was drug testing ruled unconstitutional as search and seizure without probable cause but only 100 beneficiaries were kicked off the rolls at the expense of \$22,000 dollars apiece. You can't profile folks just because their poor. I would also question the logic of

taking away health insurance from someone with a substance abuse issue.

The work requirements are already in place for SNAP recipients and like most of the content of these bills are redundant.

Currently application processors have a caseload of 1,000 applications. To go from annual recertification to quarterly would require quadrupling the staff at a cost of one hundred million more tax dollars.

The perception that struggling, disabled and the working poor are crooked or gaming the system isn't a fact-based assumption. This view is perpetrated and fomented by biased news sources that frame the well-off among us as the victim and those struggling in a system that has been legislated for inequities as takers.

Some of the legislators here at the Capitol push this view at the expense of their own constituents.

When Senator Schultz and Representative Holt were asked where the idea for the Medicaid and SNAP bills came from they both said that it was their constituents number one issue. Senator Schultz uses the word welfare in a way that stigmatizes the working poor. Medicaid is

health insurance and is as much a right for every American's wellbeing as a strong defense.

With the issues facing Iowa's rural towns these bills seem like a distraction and a campaign commercial more than a policy that would help their districts.

I wrote an article about Senator Jake Chapman in Iowa Starting Line using his Facebook page to not just divide the electorate but incite his base and drive the narrative that the poor or undocumented constituents were the cause of their struggles.

I have written in Bleeding Heartland about Senator Chapman's tactics as well.

I have recently been blocked by the Senator and all our conversations were scrubbed from his page. The last comment he made to me was that he liked our discussions and gave me his phone number.

This isn't Iowa. Pitting citizens against each other and punching down on the most vulnerable is a shameful thing to do. It might rile up a base and make a great campaign commercial, but it is destructive to our state, to our people, and to our country.

