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**STATE OF IOWA**

**Senate Journal**

**FRIDAY, MAY 2, 2014**

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# JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

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ONE HUNDRED TENTH CALENDAR DAY  
SIXTY-SEVENTH SESSION DAY

Senate Chamber  
Des Moines, Iowa, Friday, May 2, 2014

The Senate met in regular session at 8:08 a.m., President Jochum presiding.

Prayer was offered by the Honorable Dennis Guth, member of the Senate from Hancock County, Klemme, Iowa.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Senate Page Allen Tegatz.

The Journal of Thursday, May 1, 2014, was approved.

## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION (Regular Calendar)

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent to take up for consideration [Senate Resolution 121](#).

### [Senate Resolution 121](#)

On motion of Senator Gronstal, [Senate Resolution 121](#), a resolution conferring authority upon the standing Committee on Government Oversight to conduct an investigation of specified issues relating to the Iowa Department of Administrative Services and the Iowa Department of Workforce Development, with report of committee recommending passage, was taken up for consideration.

The Senate stood at ease at 8:16 a.m. until the fall of the gavel for the purpose of party caucuses.

The Senate resumed session at 8:49 a.m., President Jochum presiding.

Senator Gronstal moved the adoption of [Senate Resolution 121](#), which motion prevailed by a voice vote.

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent for the Secretary of the Senate to amend [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#) to the correct date.

CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION  
(Regular Calendar)

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent to take up for consideration [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#).

[House Concurrent Resolution 109](#)

On motion of Senator Gronstal, [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die, with report of committee recommending passage, was taken up for consideration.

Senator Gronstal moved the adoption of [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), which motion prevailed by a voice vote.

IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Gronstal asked and received unanimous consent that [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

FINAL ADJOURNMENT

By virtue of [House Concurrent Resolution 109](#), duly adopted, the day of May 2, 2014, having arrived, President Jochum declared the 2014 Regular Session of the Eighty-fifth General Assembly adjourned sine die.

## REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

President Jochum addressed the Senate with the following remarks:

When we began the 2014 session of the 85th General Assembly, I urged us to create a rising tide to lift all boats. The recovery from the 2008–2009 Great Recession has been slow and has still left too many workers and families struggling to make ends meet.

Education has always been, and remains, the great equalizer.

On that front, the 85th General Assembly has scored a number of successes to build a stronger foundation for our children and for workers seeking to upgrade their skills to meet the changing demands of the 21st Century economy.

That's why we increased childcare assistance to help families where parents are working part-time while improving their skills and boosted Iowa's child and dependent tax credit to ease the financial burden for families.

We created a \$2,500 tax credit for adoption related expenses to assist more families in providing a stable and nurturing home for more children.

Furthermore, to ensure a good start for our youngest Iowans, we invested an additional \$87 million in educational opportunities to ensure a brighter future for Iowa and our nation. Those opportunities include:

- One-on-one help for students struggling to learn to read and write in the early years of their academic career;
- Increasing our investment in higher education by freezing tuition at our three State Universities for another year and slowing the rising cost of higher education at our 15 Community Colleges and 28 private colleges;
- Internship opportunities for students studying science, technology, engineering and math; and expanding apprenticeship and skilled worker programs at our Community Colleges.

In addition, we jumpstarted the recruitment of the next generation of great teachers by making investments to improve the curriculum of Iowa's teacher preparation courses as well as the teacher and administrator mentoring programs to improve classroom results.

I cannot close without mentioning our achievements in providing affordable, quality healthcare for thousands of previously uninsured Iowans, the reform measures in Iowa's property tax system to make it more fair and equitable, the dozens of programs to assist Iowa's veterans with education, homeownership, and employment, and the significant investments made to improve and protect our land, water and air.

What's more, we forged partnerships with local communities through flood mitigation programs to protect our homes, farms, and businesses from natural disasters and made significant investments to improve the quality of life through recreational and cultural opportunities.

Finally, once again, we stepped up to the plate to protect and ensure the civil rights of all Iowans.

I want to thank every Senator and Representative for their dedicated service to the people of Iowa. More importantly, I want to thank the people of Iowa who have entrusted their faith in each of us and have given us the opportunity of a lifetime to serve in the Iowa Legislature.

We can all be proud of the significant progress we made to create a rising tide to lift all boats.

### REMARKS BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Gronstal provided the following remarks:

I started this session by talking about three Iowans who got a ticket to a better life because of our bipartisan efforts during the 2013 session. They were community college students who got better jobs thanks to the skills they gained with help made possible with bipartisan support from Republicans and Democrats in the Iowa Legislature.

Last year, we worked until we found common ground, because that's the only way to get things done.

This year, we did it again.

We balanced the state budget without raising taxes.

We expanded job skills training.

We invested in infrastructure and job creation.

We extended the tuition freeze at our state universities for a second year.

We boosted funding for our K-12 schools.

That's the big picture. Here are three specific areas I'm most proud of.

First, because we worked together, Iowans will have more access to apprenticeships—supervised on-the-job training combined with technical classroom studies.

In four years, 62 percent of all Iowa jobs will require some training or education beyond high school. Apprenticeships are part of the solution.

Last year, Iowa had 662 apprenticeship programs, with more than 8,100 apprentices in everything from construction to telecommunications to biotechnology to health care.

Next year, there will be more apprenticeship openings, and more Iowans moving up in the world thanks to decisions made by Democrats and Republicans in the Iowa Legislature.

Second, because we worked together, we've significantly improved protections and in-home services for Iowa's seniors.

To better protect seniors from elder abuse and financial exploitation, we have strengthened Iowa's power of attorney laws and increased oversight.

Victims of elder abuse will now be able to secure protective orders and benefit from state funded local elder abuse services.

The state of Iowa will hire an additional ombudsman to protect the rights of seniors in nursing facilities.

State support will make it easier for seniors to get the services they need to keep living in their own homes.

By next year, fewer Iowa seniors will be victims of elder abuse and more seniors will be able to keep living in their own homes thanks to decisions made by Democrats and Republicans in the Iowa Legislature.

Third, because we've worked together, Iowans will have more recreation opportunities and Iowa will be a more attractive place to live.

For the first time in its 25 year history, REAP, Iowa's most important environmental program, will be fully funded at \$25 million.

Funding for recreational trails has been doubled to \$6 million.

Our state's waterways will be cleaner thanks to increased funding for soil conservation and the Water Quality initiative.

Visitors will be drawn to our communities thanks to investments in the arts, cultural endeavors and historic preservation

The new Workforce Tax Credit will make good housing easier to find by providing incentives to build and rehabilitate housing in the areas that need it the most.

By next year, Iowans will be healthier, happier and more connected to their communities thanks to decisions made by Democrats and Republicans in the Iowa Legislature.

I want to thank all of the Senate staff. The nonpartisan staff, the partisan staff, our doorkeepers, clerks, pages and interns. Without your help, our jobs would be much more difficult.

## REMARKS BY THE MINORITY LEADER

Senator Dix provided the following remarks:

On Day 1, I joined my fellow Senate leaders in sharing a vision to create a legacy of opportunity for all Iowans. We held true to our word out of the gate. We built on that momentum in the early days of the 2014 Legislative session. We worked in a bipartisan manner to pass legislation, eliminating the income tax on military pensions. Senate Republicans have been calling for comprehensive tax reforms, and this was a great first step.

We made some great strides in retaining and attracting veterans to Iowa and expanding apprenticeship opportunities in our great state.

Unfortunately, the majority party veered off path, shifting the focus from governing to grandstanding.

As this session drew to a close, the media focused on partisan divides and bitter debates. They are not wrong. However, they were not exactly accurate. The real story in this chamber is not just Republican vs. Democrat, Right vs. Left, and Conservative vs. Liberal bickering. What's really happening is this: Senate Republicans fought passionately for all Iowans and dug trenches to resist the Democrats' War on the Iowa taxpayers.

Some lawmakers in this chamber talk of dipping into the surplus to fund their pet projects. This is one of the biggest fibs ever told by an elected official. The so-called surplus is already accounted for in commitments we made to property tax relief, education reforms, and Medicaid expansion.

Underlying the intention to spend this surplus money is the conviction that it is theirs to spend. It is not. However, that is in danger of happening because some in this room have a never-ending appetite for other people's money. Ladies and gentlemen, anyone who mentions spending this surplus money on other projects in the months to come is being dishonest with you.

When we return in January, we will likely face a structural budget deficit. This is why Senate Republicans have repeatedly fought on behalf of the Iowa taxpayer. We know what is coming. We have issued constant warnings that went unheard, or unheeded. Senate Republicans are eager to lead, rein in spending and end this war on the Iowa taxpayer.

For Senate Republicans, this session ends in disappointment. That is perhaps not surprising; considering the comprehensive property tax reform, education reform and other measures we worked closely together to pass in 2013.

One explanation for this ebb and flow comes from remarks made prior to the start of the legislative session by the Senate Majority Leader. I heard it said numerous times that odd-numbered years were for governing, and even-numbered years were for campaigning.

Folks, what that joke lacks in actual humor, it makes up for in unintentional accuracy. If you cannot see this, try making a similar joke at your own job. How long do you think your boss would laugh if you announced your intention to pursue keeping your job by refusing to do it every other year?

I think I speak for everyone on this side of the aisle when I say that we believe it's better to keep your job by actually doing it, all the time, and doing it well.

The people of this state deserve better than just over a hundred days spent on theater instead of substance. We all campaign, as well we should; but things work best when one's campaign is the marketing of a substantial, quality product, rather than a substitute for one. In fact, if it is anything other than that, we might as well be honest and just call it propaganda.

You recently heard me say something that bears repeating. One of the first things we are taught in kindergarten is how to work and play well with others. And our culture in America values diversity of opinion and thought. None of that is in evidence when alleged leaders give up trying to find common ground that moves the state forward in favor of playground fights, or, worse yet, misleading Iowans over and over again for political gain. November is coming, and not a moment too soon, because a different direction is sorely needed.

There is a lot of work still to be done on behalf of Iowans when we return in January, and Senate Republicans give you our assurance we will not give up on that fight. The media rightly notes that we are fighting against each other, but today I declare what I am fighting for: to end the war on the Iowa taxpayer. That is what is required to give you the government that you expect, the representation that you deserve and the leadership that you elected us to provide.

Ladies and gentlemen, Iowans were watching this Legislative session. They understand actions speak louder than words. Senate Republicans are ready to act. We are ready to lead the way. We understand Iowans deserve governing, not grandstanding. We can and must do better! Let's Make It Happen!