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**STATE OF IOWA**

**Senate Journal**

**SATURDAY, APRIL 22, 2017**

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# JOURNAL OF THE SENATE

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ONE HUNDRED FOURTH CALENDAR DAY  
SEVENTY-SECOND SESSION DAY

Senate Chamber  
Des Moines, Iowa, Saturday, April 22, 2017

The Senate met in regular session at 7:14 a.m., President Whitver presiding.

The Journal of Friday, April 21, 2017, was approved.

## CONSIDERATION OF RESOLUTION (Regular Calendar)

Senator Dix asked and received unanimous consent to take up for consideration [House Concurrent Resolution 8](#).

### [House Concurrent Resolution 8](#)

On motion of Senator Dix, [House Concurrent Resolution 8](#), a concurrent resolution to provide for adjournment sine die, with report of committee recommending passage, was taken up for consideration.

Senator Dix moved the adoption of [House Concurrent Resolution 8](#), which motion prevailed by a voice vote.

### IMMEDIATELY MESSAGED

Senator Dix asked and received unanimous consent that [House Concurrent Resolution 8](#) be **immediately messaged** to the House.

### FINAL ADJOURNMENT

By virtue of [House Concurrent Resolution 8](#), duly adopted, the day of April 22, 2017, having arrived, President Whitver declared the 2017 Regular Session of the Eighty-seventh General Assembly adjourned sine die.

## REMARKS BY THE MAJORITY LEADER

Senator Dix provided the following remarks:

Fifteen weeks ago, we made a series of promises to you, to the people of Iowa. Promises for the people who voted for a change, for action, and for results. On day one, we promised you real, substantive policies for growth. We were not elected for more of the same.

We were elected to make big changes and bold decisions, just like the people of Iowa made when they voted for an overwhelming Republican majority in the Iowa House of Representatives and here in the Iowa Senate.

This session was different. The reason this session was different is because over the last fifteen weeks, we have kept our promises. In contrast to the institutional dysfunction on display in Washington, DC we have worked together to move this state forward with bold, innovative reforms.

Fifteen weeks ago, we promised real policies that focus on economic growth in our state.

[Senate File 1](#) required jobs impact statements on administrative rule changes and instructed the state's departments to consider how these changes will impact jobs in our state, a decision vital to creating an environment for economic growth in our state.

We passed [Senate Joint Resolution 9](#), allowing the people of Iowa to vote on putting a 99 percent expenditure limit amendment to the Iowa Constitution. This would provide confidence to Iowa families and job creators that the state will live within its means in the same way the people of Iowa must live within their means. That stability gives them the motivation to invest, and raise their families in this state.

We made a series of changes to regulations in this state, with the goal of allowing our job creators to spend less time fending off frivolous lawsuits and focus on expanding their businesses in our communities. The agriculture nuisance law protects good agricultural producers from job killing lawsuits. Workers' compensation reform restored the balance to Iowa's system and lowered costs for job creators. Medical malpractice reform lowers costs for doctors and encourages them to work in rural Iowa.

We promised you real policies for educational growth. This year we were able to pass on-time supplemental state aid, setting budgets early and allowing school districts more time and predictability to plan their school year budgets. Major education flexibility policy passed unanimously in this chamber allows schools the freedom to address their specific needs with fewer top-down restrictions. We passed collective bargaining reform, allowing school boards and administrators to reward good teachers and get rid of bad teachers.

We passed a bill Senate Republicans had been pushing for years – transportation equity for our rural school districts. This bill is important to many rural districts across the state as they seek to provide the best education to their students regardless of where they live in Iowa.

This Senate moved common-sense laws supported by a wide majority of Iowans, including one of the largest gun bills in recent history, expanding the rights of every gun owner across the state. We also passed a requirement for a government-issued identification in order to participate in one of the most profound responsibilities as a citizen of our republic—voting. This session also saw the most significant pro-life legislation in forty years.

This is what fifteen weeks of a Senate Republican majority looked like. Not wasting time with politics—just substantive, real policies. This is only a chapter of the legacy

we hope to leave for our state as we move this state forward in a positive, fiscally responsible, economically prosperous direction.

At the beginning of this session I said Iowans wanted us to change the way we do business. They wanted us to kick the door in. Well, we accepted that challenge and we kicked the door in. Now, the door of opportunity is wide open for Iowans to invest, grow, and succeed.

2017 was a legislative session in which we made it happen!

## REMARKS BY THE MINORITY LEADER

Senator Hogg provided the following remarks:

Mr. President, Mr. Majority Leader, and all my Senate colleagues:

During my address on the opening day of this session, I expressed hope the Senate would govern wisely and take action to make life better on the bread-and-butter issues that Iowans face every day.

I noted that—in recent years—the Legislature has worked together in a bipartisan manner on policies that were designed to:

- Create jobs and broaden economic prosperity across our state.
- Create more educational opportunities for Iowans.
- Expand access to health care and make it more affordable.
- Improve public safety for families, neighborhoods and communities.
- Help safeguard our people and our property from disasters.

With that in mind, I pledged on the first day of the session that Senate Democrats would focus on real solutions to real problems.

I specifically cited six real problems that need to be addressed:

First, the increase in deadly Iowa traffic accidents.

Second, the Medicaid managed care mess that is failing Iowa patients and families, failing Iowa providers, and failing Iowa taxpayers.

Third, the lack of pension and retirement security for too many Iowans.

Fourth, the statewide problem of impaired waters.

Fifth, the loss of population in over 70 counties and its impact on local schools.

Sixth, the problem of stagnant wages paid to Iowa workers.

So how did the Legislature do on these six key problems facing Iowa?

On traffic safety, Democrats joined with Republicans to pass [Senate File 234](#) to address texting while driving and [Senate File 444](#) to increase penalties when texting causes an accident that seriously injures or kills someone.

That same legislation will also help reduce drunken driving fatalities and other drug and alcohol-related problems by establishing the 24/7 Sobriety program in counties that want to try it. This is probably the best news of this legislative session.

Unfortunately, this body did not take up [Senate File 450](#) to address bicycle safety, and we have much, much more to do for better driver's education and traffic safety to save lives.

On the Medicaid managed care mess, the Republican majority did not take any action to fix the problem. The Republican majority failed to take up bills Democrats proposed to improve the system, and even blocked a vote on an amendment just to study ways to improve managed care.

To make matters worse, the human services budget ([House File 653](#)) slashed funding for hospital reimbursements, slashed funding for child abuse investigations through the field offices, and made further cuts to our mental health system that is already in crisis.

On retirement security, the Republican majority did not take any action to improve retirement security. None. The only good news is that no action was taken on a Republican proposal, [Senate File 45](#), to end the retirement system for peace officers, fire fighters, teachers, and other public employees.

On water quality, the Legislature was much more talk than action. In fact, the Ag and DNR budget ([Senate File 510](#)) reduces funding for REAP, CRP, and other water quality programs and would eliminate the Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture, which Governor Branstad established at Iowa State University in 1987. I still hope that Governor Branstad will exercise his veto pen and save the Leopold Center.

On the declining population in over 70 counties in Iowa, the Republican majority did not enact any positive vision for revitalization in our counties and small towns.

Instead, the Republican majority provided inadequate funding for our schools—again ([Senate File 166](#))—along with cuts to our community colleges ([Senate File 130](#)), cuts to the REAP program ([Senate File 510](#)), and cuts to our hospitals ([House File 653](#)).

These cuts do nothing to reverse the decline in population and revitalize our communities across our state. We should be investing in our natural resources, our schools, and access to health care across our state to reverse declining population and stop school consolidations and closures.

On stagnant wages, the Republican majority failed to make progress, despite the promise of Governor Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds to raise family incomes. In fact, the Republican majority voted for [House File 295](#)—which was signed by Governor Branstad—to cut the wages of 85,000 hard-working Iowans in counties that had already moved forward to raise the minimum wage.

There were other bills that undermine wages and family incomes in our state. The Republican majority voted for [Senate File 130](#) and [House File 642](#) to slash education funding for our community colleges and our universities. The Republican majority voted for [House File 518](#) to create barriers and cut workers compensation for injured and disabled workers.

The Republican majority also voted for [House File 203](#) to circumvent “prevailing wage” and “Buy American” requirements for road projects. The Republican majority voted for [Senate File 438](#) to prevent local governments from considering wages and health and safety qualifications when seeking bids for construction projects.

All of this legislation will make the problem of stagnant wages worse, not better. And dealing with the problem of stagnant wages is the key to creating a future with broad prosperity and more opportunity for all Iowans.

Dealing with stagnant wages with solutions to raise wages and grow family incomes is also the key to our budget. After more than six years under Governor Branstad and Lt. Gov. Reynolds, Iowa’s budget is a mess—not because of a national or global recession, but because of bad budgeting decisions by the Branstad-Reynolds Administration and their failure to grow our economy and family incomes as they promised.

Unfortunately, rather than deal with these real problems, the Republican majority made a decision to pursue the fake problems I warned about on opening day—like the “fake” problem of collective bargaining, the “fake” problem of Planned Parenthood funding, and the “fake” problem of “fake” people casting votes.

The bad news for Iowans is that the Republican majority dedicated this session to addressing these fake problems, with an anti-worker, anti-women, anti-family agenda that hurts Iowans.

The Republican majority attacked the “fake” problem of collective bargaining by taking away workers’ rights and reducing wages and benefits ([House File 291](#)), hurting 184,000 Iowa families and communities across our state.

The Republican majority attacked the “fake” problem of Planned Parenthood funding ([House File 653](#)), costing the state \$3 million in federal family planning dollars and making it harder for Iowans across the state to access preventive health care services.

The Republican majority attacked the “fake” problem of “fake” people casting votes ([House File 516](#)), by weakening the voting rights of Iowans, by making it more difficult for all Iowans to vote, especially elderly and disabled Iowans, poor people and minorities who do not own or drive a car, and college students who won’t have the required identification.

I believe the intent of [House File 516](#) was to limit participation, which is fundamentally contrary to the ideals of our state and our country.

But I also believe that because of the attacks on workers, women, families, students, minorities, and all voters, we are already seeing the greatest re-awakening of democracy that Iowa has ever seen.

As I said in my opening day speech, the solution to our problems is not less participation, it is more participation.

So today I ask again—as I asked when this legislative session opened on January 9—to everyone in this chamber and to those listening or watching the proceedings online—let’s join together with a renewed sense of citizenship, to sit at our table of democracy, to participate, to reach out, to listen, to speak up, and to serve, so that together we can build a safer and healthier future, with broad prosperity and more opportunity, for all Iowans.

Thank you, Mr. President.

## REMARKS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

President Whitver provided the following remarks:

As the 2017 Legislative session reaches adjournment, let me start by thanking all of you for the honor to preside over this body. Friends and colleagues, it truly has been a privilege. I also would like to take a moment to ask the chamber to join me in showing our appreciation to the Secretary of the Senate, his staff and the Senate pages for their hard work and efforts during this Legislative session.

This year has been very memorable for me. I am proud to serve as the Senate President and preside over a chamber with fifty Senators who care deeply about this state. We all have the same goal—to make Iowa a better place. Admittedly, we sometimes have different solutions. We have had robust debates this year on the best way forward for Iowa. There were intense moments, friendly moments, serious moments and humorous moments. Throughout it all, I have done my best to be fair and promote an open, spirited conversation the entire Session.

When people look back at the 2017 Legislative Session, I believe they will say that this is the year that changed Iowa forever. They will say that 2017 was the year that created an economic revival in our state. This was the year that created growth and opportunity for generations to come.

At the beginning of this Session, I challenged this body to act boldly. With leading and acting boldly comes criticism and doubt. I would urge my colleagues and fellow Iowans to judge the success of this legislature on the results of these policies, not on the talking points from either party.

This Session also was memorable for me because I had the honor of having my two daughters spend a day with me in the Iowa Senate. One of the joys I get as a father is playing with them, reading to them, and working on puzzle books. They love connect

the dot books. It is amazing watching their faces light up when they see lines connected from dot to dot turn into a clear picture.

I truly believe our bold agenda was crafted with a realistic vision, which will positively affect for our state for years to come. The Legislature has passed many bills this year - let me share with you how Senate Republicans see the big picture after the dots are connected.

This Session we improved Iowa's job climate by reducing burdensome regulations on small businesses, worked toward reducing frivolous lawsuits and created uniform employment law.

We revitalized rural Iowa by working to increase access to healthcare, lifted up our rural schools by giving them home rule, created additional legal protections for Iowa farmers, and ensured cities and counties could get more bang for their buck on infrastructure projects.

Education remains our priority as we increased funding to K-12 education despite severe budget challenges. We empowered local schools by providing administrators and boards more flexibility with spending decisions and working to solve equity issues with school funding.

The Legislature approved legislation to keep our communities and Iowans safe. We placed a ban on texting while driving, protected students from sex offenders while at school and passed legislation to provide substance abuse treatment for OWI offenders.

Protecting the personal freedoms of Iowans is imperative. We enhanced Second Amendment protections, improved the integrity of our election system and legalized fireworks. I am also extremely proud to know we passed several bills protecting the sanctity of life in this session.

We stand proudly for a smaller, smarter government. These measures will go a long way in helping us navigate out of our financial dilemma. We passed a balanced budget and made a commitment to refill our cash reserves in a timely manner. We passed legislation to prevent waste, fraud and abuse of taxpayer dollars as well as reformed the public sector bargaining system.

As I said in my comments on the opening day of Session, more than three million Iowans are looking to us to lead, and to make the hard decisions necessary to create a better future for this state. I asked this chamber to look beyond the next election and look to the next generation. I challenged the body to make decisions that will change our state forever. I know we have done that. We have made many major changes that I know will make Iowa a more prosperous and better state for years to come.

I started this Session with an abundance of optimism for our future. As we close the 2017 Session of the 87<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, I am even more optimistic about the future of Iowa.

Thank you for allowing me to serve as Senate President, and thank you for your hard work and service to the people of Iowa. See you in January!