



Nick's News from the
Iowa House of Representatives
 State of Iowa
Eighty-Third General Assembly
 Week 12: March 30-April 3

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Twelfth Week of the 83rd General Assembly

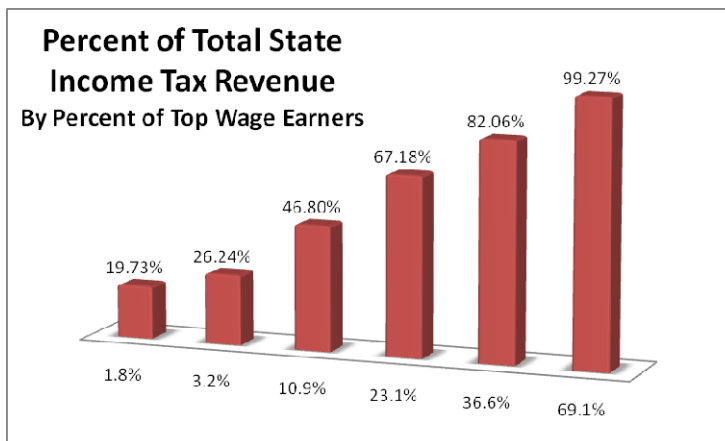
I appreciated hearing from those of you who responded to the mid week special edition of Nick's News concerning the elimination of federal deductibility on Iowa income taxes. Of the responses I received the overwhelming majority of you are opposed to HF 807 which would eliminate federal deductibility.

Debate was planned for Thursday but it was not debated, and has not at this time been scheduled for debate. This does not mean that it won't be debated in the future so please if you have not done so, let your Representative and Senator know your position on the bill.

As was stated in the mid week Nick's News, there was a public hearing on the subject held on Tuesday night of this week. I would like to take the time to thank those of you who came to the capitol for the public hearing. Some have estimated that there were more than 500 people in attendance for the hearing and a vast majority of attendees were opposed to the bill. Some of you may have heard that the House chamber was ordered to be cleared by the Speaker of the House Pat Murphy.

I would like to clarify the media reports that many of you may have heard about the occurrences at the hearing. You may have heard that the speaker threw out an unruly crowd from the house chambers which true, though I personally do not feel that the crowd was "unruly," the crowd was just very passionate about their cause and responded with boos, hisses and applause. I do not condone the booing and hissing that occurred early on in the debate and have always found it disrespectful. The booing and hissing was stopped once the attendees were informed by the Chair of the public hearing that it was not acceptable. The crowd continued their applause for speakers when the speakers were finished, and subdued their applause quickly for the next speaker. One of the speakers was particularly passionate and elicited a large amount of applause which prompted the Speaker of the House to clear the chamber. It is very unfortunate that the Speaker of the House chose this action. There were a total of about 25 speaking spots for this hearing and approximately 500 people who would have liked an opportunity to be heard. Of those that spoke only a handful were in favor of this bill and were allowed to continue after the clearing of the house. We like to call the House of Representatives "The People's House" and unfortunately as one speaker put it "the tenant evicted the landlord" and kicked the people of of their house.

I have an amendment ready for when the bill is debated that provides for keeping the federal deductibility and also provides a 10% across the board income tax cut for ALL individuals and ALL businesses. This makes ALL Iowans winners!



While we're on the topic of taxes the chart above shows the top wage earners as a percentage of total filers and the percent of the total income tax collections that they pay. For example, the top 10.9% of income tax filers in Iowa pay 46.8% of the total income taxes collected by the state. Analysis is based on 2005 data provided by the Department of Revenue.



Bills Passed:

SF 43	SF 291	SF 407
SF 112	SF 336	SF 419
SF 150	SF 339	SF 420
SF 151	SF 355	SF 423
SF 176	SF 356	SF 436
SF 186	SF 360	SF 440
SF 187	SF 366	SF 441
SF 207	SF 377	SF 445
SF 253	SF 379	SF 447
SF 254	SF 380	SF 449
SF 289	SF 405	

For a full text of these bills and any others please visit:

<http://www.legis.state.ia.us>

If you would like updates on legislation that is of interest to you, please visit the Iowa General Assembly Bill and Code Watch website at:

<https://coolice.legis.state.ia.us/secure/default.asp?Category=BillWatch&Service=BWSignIn>

This site will help you stay informed on bills scheduled for action on the House and Senate floors. There is no subscription or monthly fee. In order to function, the Bill Watch system must have JavaScript enabled in your browser.



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House Republicans Release Proposed Budget Reductions

At the beginning of the session Republicans promised to dig deep into the budget and perform a line by line analysis and we have done just that. On Wednesday, April 1, House Republicans unveiled a list of proposed budget reductions for fiscal year 2010. These reductions are meant to bring the fiscal year 2010 budget into balance by reducing spending and reduce the size of government.

Some of these reductions are as follows: Eliminate "phantom employee" unfilled positions; require Governor Culver to negotiate a pay reduction for all employees on a sliding scale of 2% cut for \$40K to 10% cut for over \$100K that would apply to all non-union members of all branches; charge state employees a monthly fee for health insurance premiums; sell the general use fleet and outsource vehicle leasing; eliminate "extras" on existing state vehicle purchases including bug shields, stereos, GPS systems and other add-ons; eliminate charter flights by members of the DOT commission.

The cuts released by the House republicans total \$217 million for the fiscal year 2010 budget. A complete list of the cuts can be viewed at <http://iowahouserepublicans.com/republicans-offer-budget-reductions-to-the-fy-2010-budget>. Since the Democrats' own budget targets show they are \$105 million above the spending limit, accepting half of these suggestions would not only prevent the transfer of funds from the cash reserves, but should also eliminate the need for tax increases in to balance their budget. Republicans and I will continue to fight for the taxpayers and work on a line-by-line analysis of the budget in order to make state government leaner and more efficient.

Iowa Student Internship Program Still Open

Recently, the Iowa Department of Economic Development announced it is currently accepting applications for the 40 remaining internship grants awarded as part of the Iowa Student Internship Program this summer.

The program provides small businesses with financial assistance for the costs associated with hiring student interns. Each company that qualifies is eligible to receive up to \$3,100 to compensate each intern and is limited in the amount of assistance for more than three internships. Moreover, Iowa companies qualify for the incentives based of the following criteria:

- Must employ 500 or fewer Iowans
- Must be a company in the targeted industries of bioscience, information technology or advanced manufacturing.
- Must offer the internships to students of an Iowa community college, private college or regent institution.
- Must pay a minimum of \$14.50 per hour.

The deadline to submit applications is May 1, 2009. Companies interested in submitting an application for consideration can complete the appropriate form at: www.iowalifechanging.com/business/ic/internship_program.html.

46th Memorial Service

Wednesday April, 1st the 46th Memorial service was held in the senate chamber to recognize past legislators who passed away during the time since the previous memorial service was held. There were 13 senators and 12 representatives recognized at the service including our own Mary Lundby and Rosemary Thomson. The Memorial service consisted of a choir made up of legislators and staff of the capitol, a candle lighting and biographical reading for each member who had passed away, and a responsorial reading.

Capitol Visitors



Rep. Wagner and Rep Schulte with Harold Barnes (Marion), Joni Scotter (Marion) and other Representatives of the Iowa Federation of Republican Women