



Bob Dorr joined us in the Senate, when we recognized his life and work. Bob began his career in music broadcasting on October 2, 1972, as an undergraduate student at the University of Northern Iowa for the KUNI radio station. He has been a bandleader for more than 40 years, with 36 years leading, singing and playing multiple instruments in Iowa's Blue Band. Bob has hosted radio shows on Iowa Public Radio spanning every genre. He's a member of the Iowa Blues Hall of Fame and a two-time member of the Iowa Rock 'n Roll Hall of Fame.

### **VOUCHER BILL EARNS 3 F'S ...**

#### **False choice, Fiscally irresponsible & unFair**

In the last eight years, we've seen record-low funding increases for K-12 education. A proposal in the Senate would even further erode that investment.

[SSB 3206](#) would create a new system of private school vouchers, also known as Education Savings Accounts.

**VIDEO:** *See why I give this proposal 3 failing grades.*

Iowa's public schools offer many educational choices, including open enrollment, online classes and virtual academies, college credit, Career and Technical Education, STEM opportunities and much more. Instead of taking money out of public schools, let's continue to make them better for all students by further investing in smaller class sizes, improving teacher training and increasing parental involvement.

### **GOT ACES AWARENESS? YOU SHOULD IF WE HOPE TO LIFT UP ALL IOWA CHILDREN**

Suicide is the second-leading cause of death among school-age youth, but it is preventable. Kids contemplating suicide often show signs of distress. Those

closest to them – parents, teachers and friends—are in key positions to pick up on cues and get help.

That's the goal of [SF 2113](#), which passed the Legislature unanimously. The bill requires training for educators on suicide awareness and prevention. Local school boards will include an hour of evidenced-based training on suicide prevention and "postvention" as part of a licensed educator's professional development each year.

In addition, licensed school personnel who have regular contact with students will get an hour of training to help them identify adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) so that their impact can be minimized. ACEs can have negative effects on a person's health and wellbeing throughout life. These experiences can include enduring abuse, witnessing domestic violence or substance abuse in the home.

### **BETTER PRIVACY PROTECTION FOR YOU IN THE INFORMATION AGE**

In the Equifax security breach last year, hackers stole Social Security numbers, birth dates, addresses and

other personal information from an about 143 million Americans, including 1.1 million Iowans.

Wary of identity theft, many consumers requested a freeze on their credit reports. They then learned that they had to pay a fee to get the freeze and pay again if they wanted to lift the freeze.

[SF 2177](#) bans such credit reporting agencies as Equifax, Experian and TransUnion from charging fees when Iowans freeze checks on their credit reports. The bill has been approved by the Legislature and awaits the Governor's signature.

Freezing prevents anyone, including an identity thief, from opening a new line of credit in your name. If you need to apply for a credit card, loan or job that requires a background check, you can have the freeze lifted, even temporarily.

In other consumer protection news, the Iowa Attorney General hopes to learn how Iowans were affected by the recently revealed Facebook privacy breach.

The data of at least 50 million Facebook profiles may have been misused by software developers. If you use certain apps, Facebook's policies allowed developers to access the personal data of your Facebook friends without their knowledge or consent.

Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller has joined a bipartisan nationwide coalition demanding answers from Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg about these practices, including:

- Were Facebook's terms of service clear and understandable?
- When did Facebook learn of the privacy breach?
- How did Facebook monitor developers?
- Did Facebook have safeguards to ensure developers didn't misuse data?
- What other applications could access the data of unsuspecting Facebook users?

**[LETTER](#)**: *Read the letter to Zuckerberg and the full list of signatories.*

## **IOWA INDUSTRIAL HEMP, AN IDEA WHOSE TIME HAS COME**

The economic potential for industrial hemp in Iowa took a step forward when a Senate Ways and Means subcommittee approved [SF 329](#). The bipartisan effort will create a program in the Iowa Department of Agriculture

and Land Stewardship to research, regulate and market hemp.

This low-input, sustainable crop holds great promise for Iowa agriculture and economic growth. [Thousands of products](#) can be made from hemp, which does not contain measurable amounts of the chemical intoxicant found in illegal marijuana. Iowa's farmers, rich soil and great growing weather could make us a leader in this emerging market for homegrown seed, fabric, feed, fuel and hygiene products.

Industrial hemp was widely grown in North America for centuries. While it is still used in the United States, most hemp product manufacturers import hemp seed, oil and fiber from other countries because the Controlled Substances Act prohibited American farmers from growing the crop for decades. Learn more about industrial hemp in this [article from Forbes](#).

## **NEWS YOU CAN USE**

### ***Summer work in state parks***

Through April 6, the Iowa Department of Natural Resources is hiring seasonal recreation aides to work in Iowa state parks this summer. Duties will include park and trail maintenance, rule enforcement, public programs and invasive species control. These positions offer experience with lake, prairie, woodland, trail and campground management. Learn more at [www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Employment](http://www.iowadnr.gov/About-DNR/Employment).

### ***DNR sale set for April 14***

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources will hold its 2018 spring auction on April 14 at the Iowa State Fairgrounds in Des Moines. The auction will include more than 500 firearms, bows, gun barrels, scopes, tree stands and other equipment. Those interested in purchasing a firearm must have a valid Iowa permit to acquire pistols or revolvers, a federal firearms license, or a permit to carry concealed weapons. Complete details and a list of sale items are at [www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting](http://www.iowadnr.gov/Hunting).

### ***Lifesaving Award nominations***

Through April 15, the Iowa Department of Public Safety is accepting nominations for the Governor's Lifesaving Awards, which are presented to ordinary citizens who take extraordinary measures to save a fellow citizen. For complete details and to nominate a deserving Iowan, go to [Department of Public Safety's website](#).

## **Contact information**

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