



9-3-18

## LET'S REWARD WORK FOR WORKING FAMILIES IN IOWA

---

Iowa workers are the most productive workers in America and deserve policies that reward work so they can raise their families and put money away for their future. Unfortunately, recent changes in Des Moines have done just the opposite, making it more difficult to get by in today's economy, especially for wage earners. Let us celebrate Labor Day in 2018 by renewing our pledge to make work rewarding for Iowa workers by growing Iowa the right way! Here's some examples of steps backwards that were taken in Des Moines, making it difficult for working families to get by:

---

### 1 Your Right to Bargain

First, they [gutted our 40-year-old compromise](#) on public employee bargaining, a law originally put in place by Iowa Republicans to prevent strikes. Iowa's collective bargaining law ensured employees and public employers collaborated on mutually agreeable solutions in the workplace.

---

### 2 Help for Injured Workers

Next, they went after [Iowans injured on the job](#). Now companies will pay less when their workers are injured, and families and the public will pay more. Iowans deserve safe working conditions, not shortcuts with their safety.

---

### 3 Driving Iowa Wages Down

They also [weakened](#) wage and "[Buy American](#)" requirements. They even overturned local ordinances that set higher minimum wage standards—potentially [cutting the pay of 65,000 Iowans](#).

---

### Rights of Iowa workers under attack

I believe a strong state starts from the bottom up. We must restore and protect workplace rights, and give priority to Iowa employees and employers—not out-of-state special interests.

---

**How do we  
move Iowa forward?**

**Put working  
families first!**

As we celebrate Labor Day, let's renew our commitment to the principles that helped workers achieve the American dream and made our country strong. Let's [Put Iowans First!](#)

## IOWANS DESERVE EQUAL PAY FOR EQUAL WORK

In 2009, the Iowa Legislature approved a Pay Equity Act, outlawing wage discrimination. That means that is illegal for an employer to pay some workers less than others for jobs requiring equal skill, effort and responsibility.

Nonetheless, wage inequality persists. [Iowa ranks 41](#) out of the 50 states when it comes to equal pay between men and women. That's nothing to be proud of, especially when you consider that we've dropped from 35th in 2016.

On average, a woman working full time [in Iowa earns 77 cents](#) for every dollar a man makes. [It's even worse for women of color](#): African-American women earn 61 cents for every dollar a white, non-Hispanic man makes; and Latina women make 57 cents for every dollar a white, non-Hispanic man makes.

Over the decades, women have made great gains in education and workforce participation. Even so, the pay gap between men and women widens with [higher levels of formal education](#).

Why should one person be awarded more purchasing power and a better standard of living for the same work? Doesn't every working Iowan deserve a fair shake at supporting their family and getting ahead? Don't we all deserve to know our work is valued?

Equal pay for equal work is simply the right thing to do.

We must close [loopholes](#) that allow wage discrimination to continue. That includes allowing employees to discuss what they make with coworkers, without fear of retaliation from their employers; and narrowing the reasons an employer may pay workers different amounts.

## Contact information

State Senator Jeff Danielson serves Hudson, Cedar Falls and Waterloo. He can be reached at 319-231-7192. E-mail him at [jeffdanielson@gmail.com](mailto:jeffdanielson@gmail.com).

Senator Danielson is ranking member on the Education Budget. He also serves on the Appropriations, Education, State Government and Transportation committees.

For further information, go to [www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson](http://www.senate.iowa.gov/senator/danielson) and [www.jeffdanielson.org](http://www.jeffdanielson.org).

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### ***Area schools to enhance computer science teaching***

Local schools will be using new funding for teaching endorsements, intensive training, conferences and professional learning programs that prepare educators to teach computer science. Funding was approved in a 2017 [bill](#) to boost computer science instruction throughout the state. It's part of our efforts to focus on training Iowa students for skilled work in high-demand jobs.

Stepping up their computer science education offerings are the Cedar Falls Community School District and the Keystone Area Education Agency Collaborative, which includes the Bosco Catholic School System and Gilbertville.

### ***It's the start of hunting season***

Several Iowa hunting seasons open September 1. Click through for complete details on:

- [Dove season](#)
- [Rabbit season](#)
- [Squirrel season](#)
- [Teal season](#)

### ***Support our college teams***

With college back in session, there are lots of opportunities to support our teams this fall. Check out the sports schedules for our area colleges and state universities:

- Hawkeye Community College: [Redtails](#)
- University of Iowa: [Hawkeyes](#)
- Iowa State University: [Cyclones](#)
- University of Northern Iowa: [Panthers](#)