



LEGISLATIVE FORUM – CEDAR FALLS

March 10 @ 9:30 am - 12:00 pm
Central Rivers AEA, 1521 Technology Pkwy
Cedar Falls, Iowa 50613 + [Google Map](#)
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Members of UAW Local 838 visited the Statehouse while they were in Des Moines for a statewide conference. Always good to see hard-working lowans in the Capitol standing up for every-day lowans. We need it now more than ever.

SENATE GOP: BROKEN PROMISES + BUSTED STATE BUDGET = HIGHER PROPERTY TAXES

A bill moving through the Iowa Senate would break promises that the Legislature made to property taxpayers.

In 2013, the Legislature approved the largest property tax cut in Iowa history. At the same time, the law was changed to require the state to reimburse cities, counties and school districts for lost revenue that came from reducing property tax rates.

This year, [SF 2081](#) would break promises made by the state to pay to cities, counties and schools in return for lower property taxes for lowans.

This would force communities to raise property taxes or make drastic cuts to police, fire and other emergency services, road and bridge maintenance, drinking water systems, among other important services.

You can find how much your school district, city and county is impacted by this broken promise: [Iowa Senate Democrats website](#).

IMPROVING HELP FOR CRIME VICTIMS

The Iowa Senate has approved more help for crime victims ([SF 2165](#)). Sandra Rohrer's story helped make it happen.

Sandra was 19 when her mother was brutally murdered in Johnson County in 1995. Iowa's [Crime Victim Compensation Program](#) paid for her mother's funeral and helped in other ways.

The murder went unsolved for 20 years. When he was a Deputy Sheriff, Senator Kevin Kinney was part of the team that helped send the murderer to prison.

VIDEO: See what Senator Kinney had to say about this bill during debate.

During court proceedings, Sandra realized that crime victims often need additional help. The state's assistance is currently limited to the initial trial, so Sandra wasn't eligible for help during the hearings that actually put her mother's murderer in prison.

The bill would ensure that the Crime Victim Compensation Fund—which is made up of criminal surcharges and other sources—provides compensation for:

- Loss of income and dependent care expenses when a survivor attends the funeral, memorial or burial.
- Cleaning a crime scene. Current law limits compensation to cleaning a residence.
- Replacing or installing new locks and other residential security items.
- Additional expenses due to a retrial, change in offender custody status or a new appellate court decision.

[SF 2165](#) is now under consideration in the House.

LESS RENEWABLE ENERGY + HIGHER UTILITY BILLS = JOB KILLING ECONOMY

I voted no on [Senate File 2311](#) that will eliminate an energy efficiency and rebate program that has saved Iowa consumers billions of dollars, avoided costly new power plants, attracted businesses looking for low electric rates and created thousands of Iowa jobs.

VIDEO: See what Senate Democrats had to say about how this bill will hurt Iowans.

[SF 2311](#) significantly deregulates gas and electric public utilities in Iowa and limits the Iowa Utilities Board oversight of energy efficiency, rate increases, coal plant emissions and consumer protections.

Iowa has some of the lowest energy rates in the Midwest and the country, while developing one of the

strongest clean energy economies. This bill undermines many of the policies that have led to Iowa's cost-effective clean energy leadership.

FIND YOUR FLOOD RISK

March is Flood Awareness Month. Iowa suffered more than \$13 billion in flood-related property losses between 1988 and 2015.

That's why the Legislature created the Iowa Flood Center in 2009. The center uses the expertise at IIHR Hydroscience and Engineering at the University of Iowa to improve flood prediction and preparedness. It's the nation's only center devoted solely to flood research.

The Center's [Iowa Flood Information System](#) is an online tool that provides up-to-the-minute, community-specific information on rainfall and stream levels. It uses a large network of sensors and weather information to predict floods and help local officials and emergency planners keep their communities safe. For example, the system can show where to deploy barriers during flooding to prevent property damage and save taxpayer money.

Iowans are free to use the models to see what could happen under different rainfall and weather scenarios.

The system also includes maps for Iowa's most flood-prone communities, including Waterloo and Cedar Falls. These maps allow users to see what a forecasted flood crest would mean for their home or business. Other maps allow users to estimate the cost of damage to buildings under various flooding scenarios for several Iowa communities, and the Flood Center continues to develop maps for additional communities every year.

IMPROVING CARE FOR STROKE PATIENTS

The Senate unanimously approved [SF 2299](#), which establishes a system of care for stroke victims. The bill is now under consideration in the House.

Stroke is the #1 cause of disability and the #5 cause of death nationally. In Iowa, 6,200 people have a stroke each year. Since 2000, we've seen a 44 percent increase in strokes for people ages 20 to 44.

Improving the system of care will ensure stroke patients get the treatment they need as quickly as possible.

Minutes are critical following a stroke. Every minute ages the brain 3.1 weeks; 10 hours ages the brain 36 years. After about 4 minutes without blood and oxygen, brain cells become damaged and may die, causing:

- Paralysis
- Vision problems
- Memory loss

- Speech problems
- Changes in behavior

Learn more about stroke symptoms, effects and prevention at www.strokeassociation.org/STROKEORG.



CRACKING DOWN ON SKIMMERS AND SPOOFERS

Have you ever found unexpected and unexplained charges on your credit card or debit card? You are not alone.

Criminals use technology to steal payment card information. They can access your cards remotely through your clothes, wallet or purse, or place nearly undetectable devices on gas pumps and other card readers that steal your information. Your card information can even be transferred to another card for the thieves to use later.

[House File 2199](#) enhances the penalty and updates Iowa’s law on illegal use of skimming devices. The bill makes it a Class D felony punishable by up to five years in prison to use a scanning device to take payment card information without authorization, or to use an encoding machine to transfer information from one card to another.

It would be an aggravated misdemeanor punishable by up to two years in prison to possess a scanning device with the intent to use it to obtain payment card information without authorization.

[HF 2199](#) has been sent to the Governor for her signature.

In other consumer protection legislation, [SF 2243](#) makes it illegal to use false or misleading caller ID information to telephone Iowans. This will strengthen laws on “spoofing,” where a caller sets up a fake name, area

code and telephone number, frequently with the same area code and prefix as the customer. This encourages you to answer what looks like a local call. The “spoofers” may try to sell products or services or get personal information from you. A violation will be an unlawful practice under Iowa’s Consumer Fraud laws.

[SF 2243](#) passed the Senate and is now under consideration in the House.

ARTIST FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS DUE MARCH 15

Through March 15, the Iowa Arts Council is accepting first-round applications from writers, musicians, filmmakers and artists for Iowa Artist Fellowships. Those selected will receive professional development opportunities, promotional support to enhance their career and a \$10,000 grant to support new work. Get complete details and apply at the [Cultural Affairs website](#).

APPLY FOR NATIONAL YOUTH PREPAREDNESS COUNCIL

Through March 18, the Federal Emergency Management Agency is seeking applicants for the Youth Preparedness Council. The Council brings together students in 8th-11th grades from across the country who are interested and engaged in community preparedness. Council members are selected based on dedication to public service, efforts to make a difference in their communities and potential to expand their impact. For more information and to apply, visit the [Youth Preparedness Council webpage](#).

NOMINATE THE NEXT IOWA TEACHER OF THE YEAR

Through April 27, nominations are being accepted for the [2019 Iowa Teacher of the Year](#). The award recognizes an exceptional Iowa teacher who is helping to redefine education. The Teacher of the Year serves as an ambassador to education and as a liaison to primary and secondary schools, higher education and organizations across the state.

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.

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 and www.jeffdanielson.org.