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Ruth Ann Gaines

Iowa

State Representative, HD-033 (D)

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Lifetime
Freedom
Score

IA Legislative Scorecard 2025

✓ Pro-Freedom ✗ Anti-Freedom — Did not Vote **Vote**

1. Strengthens Iowa's grain-marketing oversight by expanding the Grain Depositors and Sellers Indemnity Fund. —

Pro-Freedom: **No** · SF608 · 05/08/2025

2. Stipulates that CO2 pipelines cannot utilize eminent domain to condemn agricultural land unless the landowner provides explicit consent. —

Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · HF943 · 03/26/2025

3. Makes it illegal to use a handheld electronic device (such as a phone) while driving unless it is in hands-free or voice-activated mode. —

Pro-Freedom: **No** · SF22 · 03/26/2025

4. Lowers the minimum age for acquiring or carrying weapons from 21 to 18. —

Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · HF924 · 03/25/2025

5. Prohibits public universities and colleges governed by the Iowa Board of Regents from requiring or incentivizing students and faculty to engage in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training or critical race theory (CRT) content. ✗

Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · HF269 · 03/18/2025

6. Establishes a strictly biological definition of "sex" based on birth anatomy and removes "gender identity" as a protected category under the Iowa Civil Rights Act. ✗

Pro-Freedom: **Yes** · Cast: **No** · SF418 · 02/27/2025

Scorecard Votes: %

Why do these votes matter?

1. Grain Oversight

SF608 strengthens Iowa's grain-marketing oversight by expanding the Grain Depositors and Sellers Indemnity Fund. It requires grain dealers and warehouse operators to pay fees into the fund, and ensures that sellers and depositors can be reimbursed for losses covered by the fund—especially in cases of insolvency or other financial failure.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed SF608 on May 8, 2025 by a vote of 81 to 3. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government intervention in the grain market through mandatory fees and increased regulatory oversight. This not only burdens grain dealers and warehouse operators, but undermines free-market principles.

2. Eminent Domain and CO2

HF943 addresses the use of eminent domain for the construction of hazardous liquid pipelines, specifically targeting carbon capture and sequestration (CCS) projects. The bill stipulates that such pipelines cannot utilize eminent domain to condemn agricultural land unless the landowner provides explicit consent.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF943 on March 26, 2025 by a vote of 82 to 12. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because by limiting the use of eminent domain for carbon pipelines, the bill defends private-property rights and resists the global climate agenda. Such policies often align with globalist efforts such as the UN's Agenda 2030.

3. Government Overreach in Driving

SF22 makes it illegal to use a handheld electronic device (such as a phone) while driving unless it's in hands-free or voice-activated mode. Drivers caught using a device improperly face a \$100 to \$500 fine and include possible license suspension. The law exempts fully stopped vehicles, public safety workers, utility workers, transit operators, and farmers.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed SF22 on March 26, 2025 by a vote of 84 to 11. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill expands government regulation at the expense of personal responsibility and individual liberty. It allows the state to further intrude into daily life and sets a precedent for micromanaging behavior behind the wheel. Additionally, carve-outs for certain professions create unequal treatment under the law, undermining the principle of equal protection and fostering public distrust.

4. Weapon Carry Age Reduction

HF924 lowers the minimum age for acquiring or carrying weapons from 21 to 18.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF924 on March 25, 2025 by a vote of 79 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill would remove the state's minimum-age requirement that prevents a person younger than 21 from purchasing a firearm, which is both unconstitutional and more restrictive than current federal law. The Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution assures that the right of the American people "to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

5. DEI and CRT Ban

HF269 prohibits public universities and colleges governed by the Iowa Board of Regents from requiring or incentivizing students and faculty to engage in diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) training or critical race theory (CRT) content.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed HF269 on March 18, 2025 by a vote of 63 to 34. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because programs such as CRT and DEI promote division, not unity. Rooted in Marxist ideology, these initiatives pit Americans against each other, fueling resentment and reverse racism—all at taxpayers' expense. Instead of promoting equality under the Constitution, they push for equity, which undermines merit and individual rights.

6. Defining Sex

SF418 establishes a strictly biological definition of "sex" based on birth anatomy, removes "gender identity" as a protected category under the Iowa Civil Rights Act (eliminating state protections in employment, housing, education, credit, and public accommodations), prohibits changing the sex marker on birth certificates using medical transition, and bans instruction on "gender theory" in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The Iowa State House of Representatives passed SF418 on February 27, 2025 by a vote of 60 to 36. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because this bill codifies biological reality in law, protects children from harmful gender ideology, and upholds parental rights. By removing "gender identity" as a protected class and rejecting the false notion that sex can be changed, SF418 pushes back against the radical Marxist agenda being forced into schools, workplaces, and public life. It affirms the state's duty to safeguard truth and common sense. Scientifically and biblically, there are only two genders.