



Joseph L. Bolkcom

Iowa

Senator, SD-043 (D)

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IA Legislative Scorecard 2021-2022

Based on the Principles of the U.S. Constitution

The Legislative Scorecard is a nationwide, nonpartisan educational program of The John Birch Society intended to inform voters about legislators' voting records. It does not promote any candidate or political party. Bills are chosen for their constitutional implications and taxpayer costs.

| ★ Constitutional | ✗ Unconstitutional | ? Did not Vote | Vote |
|---|--------------------|----------------|-----------------|
| | | | NO ✗ |
| 1. HF2298 Vaccine Mandate Ban (Passed 29 to 16 on 5/24/2022). Ensures that K-12 students cannot be forced into receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. | | | NO ✗ |
| 2. HF2355 Unemployment Reduction (Passed 30 to 14 on 4/26/2022). Reduces unemployment benefits in the state by 10 weeks, reducing the number of weeks from 26 to 16. Estimated benefit per household: +\$54.00/year. | | | NO ✗ |
| 3. HF2416 Athletics Based on Sex (Passed 31 to 17 on 3/2/2022). Requires that student athletes in public schools, private schools, and universities can only play on sports teams of the gender that is stated on their birth certificate. | | | NO ✗ |
| 4. HF802 Critical Race Theory Ban (Passed 30 to 18 on 4/28/2021). Restricts the teaching of Critical Race Theory and teachers can no longer teach discriminatory indoctrination. | | | NO ✗ |
| 5. HF756 Constitutional Carry (Passed 31 to 17 on 3/22/2021). Removes the requirement for a permit to acquire or carry a handgun and when selling a firearm to another private person. | | | NO ✗ |
| 6. SF2296 Garbage Search (Passed 49 to 0 on 2/22/2022). Allows that no search warrant is needed for a peace officer to look through a person's garbage placed outside of someone's residence. | | | YES ✗ |

Scorecard Votes: **0%**



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\$290,968

U.S. National Debt Per Household as of June 5, 2026

Why do these votes matter?

1. Vaccine Mandate Ban

HF2298 ensures that K-12 students cannot be forced into receiving a COVID-19 vaccination.

The Iowa State Senate passed HF2298 on May 24, 2022 by a vote of 29 to 16. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because an individual's personal health care decisions should not be the object of government, nor be under its federal, state, or local jurisdictions in the United States. Forcing an individual to produce their vaccination status would be a violation of their fundamental rights, freedoms, privileges, or immunities protected by the Bill of Rights and the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution.

2. Unemployment Reduction

HF2355 reduces unemployment benefits in the state by 10 weeks, reducing the number of weeks from 26 to 16.

The Iowa State Senate passed HF2355 on April 26, 2022 by a vote of 30 to 14. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because unemployment benefits and the welfare system are a socialist government program that make people more reliant on the government. The more people on government assistance, the greater the size of government. This legislation shrinks the time people can rely on the government to live.

3. Athletics Based on Sex

HF2416 requires that student athletes in public schools, private schools, and universities can only play on sports teams of the gender that is stated on their birth certificate.

The Iowa State Senate passed HF2416 on March 2, 2022 by a vote of 31 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the left has been promoting radical Marxist ideas for years. This indoctrination is letting people believe that they can choose their pronouns and that they can be transgender. Scientifically and biblically, there are two genders. Taxpayers fund sports programs in schools, so this legislation ensures that taxpayer dollars will not be going to athletic programs that embrace the woke culture.

4. Critical Race Theory Ban

HF802 restricts the teaching of Critical Race Theory in the State of Iowa. Teachers can no longer teach discriminatory indoctrination.

The Iowa State Senate passed HF802 on April 28, 2021 by a vote of 30 to 18. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because our government is pushing schools to teach racism with Critical Race Theory, which is rooted in communism and is part of the Marxist agenda. The goal is to pit Americans of different races and religions against each other, essentially become a catalyst for more racism. Our education system is broken and corrupt and all of this is at the cost of the taxpayers expense. This legislation is a good step in taking back our schools and protecting our kids.

5. Constitutional Carry

HF756 removes the requirement for a permit to acquire or carry a handgun. A permit is also no longer required when selling a firearm to another private person.

The Iowa State Senate passed HF756 on March 22, 2021 by a vote of 31 to 17. We have assigned pluses to the ayes because the fundamental right of the American people to keep and bear arms is protected by the U.S. Constitution, particularly in the 2nd, 9th, and 10th Amendments, and should not be infringed. The Constitution does not limit where a gun or firearm can or cannot be used.

6. Garbage Search

SF2296 allows that no search warrant is needed for a peace officer to look through a person's garbage placed outside of someone's residence in a publicly accessible area.

The Iowa State Senate passed SF2296 on February 22, 2022 by a vote of 49 to 0. We have assigned pluses to the nays because this bill is a direct violation to the 4th amendment, which give people the right to be secure against unreasonable searches and seizures without a warrant with probable cause.