

**Linn County Democrats – County Convention**  
**March 15, 2008**  
**2008 County Convention Platform Report**

**Statement of Principles**

Iowa Democrats are proud of our Party's heritage, its diversity, and its accomplishments. The spirit that animates the United States of America's oldest political party is alive throughout the world today and stands as a model for those who strive to win the liberties and freedoms that we take for granted. Iowans embrace that spirit and nothing declares it more proudly than our State motto, "Our Liberties We Prize, and Our Rights We Will Maintain".

No part of that heritage is more valuable than our belief in the rights and worth of each individual. Americans through history have fought and died to protect our freedoms and extend those freedoms to the oppressed. We honor our military veterans, and support those in our armed services today who, with their families, sacrifice so much

The primary function of government is to accomplish those social goals collectively that we cannot achieve as individuals. Beyond food and shelter, we consider health care, employment, and education to be basic human needs and all Iowans have a stake in local, national and global efforts to provide these. Market forces alone often do not serve the common good. To remain competitive in the global marketplace, we need a strong economy that fosters a broad-based prosperity for all. We affirm the right of workers to organize and collectively bargain. An equitably determined tax base, a fairly compensated labor force, fair trade policies and joint governmental and business efforts to promote United States job growth will build our economy and create a prosperous society.

We believe in a truly representative government that is compassionate, progressive, responsible and fair. We support a return to meaningful checks and balances between the three branches of government so that the United States can again inspire confidence and hope for all.

We consider it a travesty that many Americans cannot afford the health insurance that higher health care costs have made a necessity. We demand that our elected officials take action to correct this inequity so that all Americans have equal access to affordable, high-quality health care.

Clean air and water should be a birthright. As temporary stewards of our natural resources, we want our governing bodies to develop policies and laws that protect our environment from wasteful and indiscriminate use, and promote sound energy

practices. Our national parks, oceans and ancient forests, as well as our local land and family farms, must be protected for our children's futures.

Education is an investment in that future. We need to provide high-quality, accessible and affordable education at all educational levels. To maintain the high standards expected of Iowa's education systems, they must remain relevant, innovative, accountable, and adequately funded.

We take seriously our obligation to uphold our basic constitutional and civil rights; therefore, we oppose government policies and laws that endanger those rights. We must stand against terrorism, but we cannot allow that fight to cost us the freedoms that so many have sacrificed to preserve. By maintaining those freedoms, we can be proud to call ourselves Iowans, Americans and Democrats

### **Agricultural, Energy, and Environmental Policy**

#### ***Acronyms Used in this Section:***

**CAFE** - Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency

**EPA** - Environmental Protection Agency

**GMO** - Genetically Modified Organisms

**IDNR** - Iowa Department of Natural Resources

**IDALS** - Iowa Department of Agriculture and Land Stewardship

**LDP** - Loan Deficiency Payments

**SUV** - Sports Utility Vehicle

**TIF** - Tax Increment Financing to implement

**USDA** - United States Department of Agriculture

#### ***Federal Agricultural Policy 111***

##### **We support:**

- Senator Harkin's Farm Bill;
- Conservation Security Program;
- USDA loan rates increased by the rate of inflation, a hard cap on subsidies, elimination of LDP, elimination of tax-free exchanges under Section 1031;
- A fair market price for farmers.

#### ***State Agricultural Policy 119***

##### **We support:**

- Family farming;
- Humane treatment of animals;
- Further development of an energy efficient economy in rural Iowa;
- Strict enforcement of anti-trust laws and banning integrated packer ownership of livestock;
- Greater research, funding and promotion of sustainable diversified farming practices;
- Soil conservation;
- Organic agriculture;
- Alternate crops;

- Local food systems;
- Efficient use of energy and chemical inputs;
- More beginning farmer programs.

### ***Environmental Standards and Protection 134***

#### **We support:**

- Protecting/enhancing our parks, preserves, and natural resources, outdoor recreational opportunities, environment and watersheds, increasing ecological diversity of public lands, and education on stewardship of resources;
- Adequately funding and enforcement authority for IDNR and IDALS;
- Enforcing the Endangered Species Act, and Clean Water and Clean Air acts;
- Improving/maintaining municipal water facilities;
- Increasing penalties for all polluters and funding for reestablishing Iowa's ecosystems;
- Giving precedence to environmental protection/public health over corporate profits;
- Enacting a carbon tax to fund research and development of renewable energy.

### ***Food Safety 149***

#### **We support:**

- Increased testing and inspection of foods, and increased oversight procedures for GMOs;
- Food safety and informed consumer choice through education and clear product labeling including:
  - Country of origin;
  - Genetic modification;
  - Irradiation;
  - Hormone use;
- Voluntary testing for diseases, including mad-cow.

### ***Confined/Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO) 160***

#### **We support:**

- County control in applying state guidelines;
- Environmental quality standards;
- Allowing aggrieved parties to file lawsuits;

#### **We oppose:**

- Tax abatements for CAFO waste systems;
- Restrictions on filing complaints with the IDNR/EPA.

### ***Protection of Agricultural Areas from Development and Urban Sprawl 168***

#### **We support:**

- Encouraging redevelopment within existing cities/towns;
- Limiting TIF to its original intended use;
- Eliminating property tax credits/subsidies for developers;

- Prime agricultural land remaining prime agricultural land.

### **Energy Policy 174**

#### **We support:**

- Energy independence;
- Combating global climate change;
- University-based energy R&D programs;
- Incentives to promote conservation and efficiency;
- Accelerating development of efficient renewable energy resources;
- Ultra fuel-efficient vehicles;
- Increasing CAFE standards for vehicles to 50 mpg by 2015 (including SUVs and pickups);
- Expanding mass transit;
- Requiring utilities to purchase surplus energies from users;
- Utilities increasing use of renewable resources;
- Reduced use of fossil fuels;
- Encouraging energy efficient buildings through design, construction, and renovation.

#### **We oppose:**

- The use of gas tax to subsidize ethanol production.

## **Educational Policy**

### **Acronyms Used in this Section:**

**CPP** – Corporation for Public Broadcasting

**ESL** – English Second Language

**ICN** – Iowa Communications Network

**IDEA** – Individuals with Disabilities Education Act

**K-14** – Kindergarten through junior college

**NAEYC** – National Association for the Education of Young Children

**NCLB** – No Child Left Behind

**NEA** – National Endowment for the Arts

**NEH** – National Endowment for the Humanities

**NSF** – National Science Foundation

### **Educators 202**

#### **We support:**

- Increased funding for K-14 teacher salaries to at least the 20th percentile in the nation;
- Living wage salaries for substitutes, para-educators and adjuncts;
- State-funded reimbursement for special education teachers for attaining certification required by IDEA by 2012;
- Tax credit for K-14 instructors for classroom materials purchased out-of-pocket.

#### **We oppose:**

- Signing bonuses and merit pay;

- “Fast track” teacher certification.

### ***Higher Education 214***

#### **We support:**

- Expanding eligibility and increasing state and federal funding of student financial aid for post-secondary education;
- Federal and state incentives to keep tuitions affordable;
- Fully funding community colleges and Regents’ universities;
- Timely disbursements of student loan payments;
- Increasing work-study programs;
- Public service for student loan repayment;
- Development of a forgiveness formula for student financial aid sources denied due to drug-related charges, arrests, convictions, and/or incarceration.

#### **We oppose:**

- Punitive fees and interest for college loans.

### ***Early Childhood and K-12 Student Development 228***

#### **We support:**

- Repealing NCLB;
- Full funding for early childhood education, public preschool, Head Start for ages 0-5 that meets Head Start or NAEYC performance standards;
- Each special education student be weighted by degree of need when determining special and general education classroom size and staffing;
- Ample funding to create rich learning experiences for all students, including gifted;
- Funding before-after-school and summer programs;
- State and federal funding for Citizen Diplomacy programs to promote understanding of diverse ethnic, cultural, and religious groups;
- Mandatory kindergarten;
- Non-sexist curricula;
- Foreign language in early elementary years;
- Increasing the state-wide minimum drop-out age to 18.

#### **We oppose:**

- Using standardized assessments as primary measures of learning;
- NCLB penalties until fully funded.

### ***Student Privacy 247***

#### **We oppose:**

- Databases of personal information under NCLB.

### ***Education Funding 250***

#### **We support:**

- Immediately increasing allowable growth rate of state aid to 6 percent;
- Rolling the teacher compensation funding into the school aid formula;
- Full funding for vocational education;
- Funding districts to improve energy efficiency.

### **We oppose:**

- Cutting art, music, physical education, media specialists, counseling programs and nurses to balance school budgets;
- Diverting monies from public schools to fund or subsidize private educational ventures;
- Mid-year funding pullbacks.

### ***Pre-K-12 & Higher 262***

#### **We support:**

- Reinstatement of full funding for technology, including ICN;
- Best-in-the-nation student/teacher ratio;
- Public-private partnerships enhancing community involvement;
- Development of a state-wide career academy system;
- Timely delivery of school aid payments;
- Controlling textbook costs.

### ***Special Needs 270***

#### **We support:**

- Federal funding of IDEA at the 40% level as legislated;
- Enforcement of Equal Access to all educational services, including physically-impaired accessibility for schools still without adequate facilities;
- Restoring all funds cut from area agencies;
- Increased funding for campaigns against illiteracy;
- Increased special needs funding (at-risk, talented and gifted, ESL, and disabled);
- Funding Vocational Rehabilitation to eliminate waiting lists;
- State-run institution students to be funded equally as if in public school settings.

### ***Library / Media 282***

#### **We support:**

- Increased funding for The State Library of Iowa, Iowa Library Service Areas, Enrich Iowa; Open Access, Access Plus;
- Free and open access to knowledge;
- Patron privacy;
- Funding for NEA, NEH, NSF, CPB.

### **Government and Law Policy**

#### ***Acronyms Used in this Section:***

DOMA - Defense of Marriage Act

ERA - Equal Rights Amendment

### ***Civil Rights 293***

#### **We support:**

- The ERA, Affirmative Action and enforcement of Title IX;
- Protecting same sex couples adoption rights;
- Adding "Sexual Orientation" and "Gender-identity" as protected classes and extending those rights to all;

- Legal written permission from individual account holders for any sharing of non-public information;
- Restoring Habeas Corpus and due process of law;
- Providing Iowans the right to jury trial under the Iowa Civil Rights Act;
- Protection of detainees during interrogation, requiring video-recording;
- Separation of church and state.

**We oppose:**

- Any constitutional amendment limiting civil rights;
- The erosion of Miranda rights;
- Search-and-seizures without benefit of warrant, or which can be selectively enforced to harass individuals or groups;
- Racial profiling;
- National identification cards.
- State or Federal funding for discriminatory organizations;

***Marriage/Civil Unions 313***

**We support:**

- Repealing DOMA;
- Legal recognition of domestic partnerships and same sex marriage.

**We oppose:**

- Constitutional amendments banning same sex marriage.

***Patriot Act 319***

**We support:**

- Repealing those provisions of the Patriot Act which subvert democratic processes and curtail civil liberties.

***Government Processes 325***

**We support:**

- Balanced budgets;
- Sunshine laws;
- Ethical government;
- Restricting the redrawing of congressional and state legislative districts to the year following the national decennial census;
- Requiring that “earmarks” be reported on the receiving congress member’s financial disclosure forms;
- The right to sue federal agencies which fail to uphold the law;
- Congressional bills limited to one issue and prohibiting unrelated riders;
- Presentation of state constitutional amendments only at the time of regular, general elections;
- Full representation in Congress for the citizens of the District of Columbia;
- The use of open and competitive bidding and disclosure in government contracts;
- Ensuring all citizens equal access to government services.

**We oppose:**

- Congressional exemption from laws passed by Congress;
- Consolidation of government departments and services, and annexation without prior approval of affected residents.

**Corrections 347****We support:**

- Aggressive enforcement of laws against white-collar crimes;
- Abolition of mandatory minimum sentencing;
- Funding for improved educational, vocational, and technical training for prisoners;
- Establishing and funding additional restorative justice programs;
- Denying prisoners access to citizens' private information;
- Felony status for identity theft.

**Law 356****We support:**

- Requiring that forfeiture of private property include adequate due process, protection of innocent property owners; and fit the crime;
- Rights of all victims of abuse and harassment to obtain no-contact orders regardless of prior relationship;
- Authorizing and fully funding a non-discriminatory Domestic Violence Act and services to crime victims;
- Increasing funding for legal services;
- Requiring adequate legal representation for all people;
- Removing the state from the alcoholic beverages distribution channel;
- Parity for beer and wine industries;
- Factoring fuel economy when determining vehicle registration fees;
- Legalization of marijuana and hemp.

**We oppose:**

- Any limits on financial judgments in civil liability lawsuits;
- Warrant-less domestic surveillance.

**Gun Ownership 373****We support:**

- Responsible gun ownership.

**Military Service 376****We support:**

- Expanding the Voluntary Active Duty and Reserve Military strength and adequate funding to properly equip all troops;
- The reorganization, funding and training of the National Guard so that it will be readily available for any stateside or national emergency;
- Full rights and privileges of adulthood for all military personnel and those registered for any required selective service.
- Increased funding for Veterans Administration;

- Raising Iowa's federal per capita veterans' benefits to 10th nationally;
- Significantly enhanced County Veterans Service Officers program;
- Expanded educational benefits for veterans;
- Family health benefits to all serving military personnel;
- Universal healthcare for all veterans;
- Equal or equivalent benefits for time served by reserve military members.

**We oppose:**

- The use of mercenaries for combat operations.

**Taxation 390**

**We support:**

- An equitable, progressive tax system;
- Reinstating the Estate Tax to 2003 levels;
- All Health care costs being fully deductible outside standard deduction structure;
- Increasing the Federal Personal Exemption to \$10,000 per dependent;
- Replenishing the Senior Living Trust Fund;
- Full State reimbursement to local governments for property tax credits for the elderly, military, renters, and homestead provisions;
- Re-establishing 100% of the property tax credits to qualified seniors and the disabled;
- Two-rate property tax system;
- Use gas tax for road construction and road maintenance only.

**Elections 406a**

**We support:**

- Requiring all candidates receiving support from the Democratic Party support, in writing, a high proportion of the planks in this platform;
- Using only voter-verified paper audit trail voting equipment;
- Public funding of political campaigns
- Requiring that all voting machine equipment and code/software be available for public inspection and verification before and after elections.
- The use of paper ballots and electronic scanning machines for Iowa elections.

**Health and Human Services Policy**

**Acronyms Used in this Section:**

**ADA** – Americans with Disabilities Act.

**CSRATP** – Child Support Recovery Amnesty Trial Program

**FMLA** – Family Medical Leave Act.

**HAWK-I** – Healthy and Well Kids in Iowa

**HHS** – Health and Human Services

### ***Universal Health Care/Medicare-Medicaid 415***

#### **We support:**

- Health Coverage for all Americans that provides access to comprehensive, high-quality, cost-effective, and affordable healthcare;
- Full funding for Medicaid, Medicare and HAWK-I;
- Equal reimbursement rates for health care providers and facilities for Medicare and Medicaid services;
- Eliminating "Pre-Existing Conditions" clauses to allow the chronically ill greater coverage;

### ***Public Health/Consumer Protection and Safety 424***

#### **We support:**

- Consumer representation on HHS review boards;
- Limiting the hours health care providers are required to work in one period;
- Statewide smoking bans in indoor public places and in vehicles where children are present;
- Mandatory seat belts for all persons in a vehicle;
- Rapid adoption of nationwide health information technologies;
- All tobacco settlement dollars paid toward cessation and related health services;
- Legislation protecting retirees negotiated health insurance benefits.
- Rapid adoption of nationwide health information technologies;
- All tobacco settlement dollars paid toward cessation and related health services;
- Legislation protecting retirees negotiated health insurance benefits;
- A statewide ban on smoking in the workplace.

### ***Child Service 441***

#### **We support:**

- Gender neutral approaches in custodial matters;
- Aggressively pursuing unpaid child support;
- Permanent establishment of the CSRATP at the State and Federal level, including the armed forces;
- Improved monitoring of child custody and visitation rights.

### ***Reproductive Rights 452***

#### **We support:**

- Legal right of women to make their own health care decisions;
- Preservation of Roe v. Wade with extension to military servicewomen;
- Developmentally-appropriate, medically accurate reproductive education including information about sexually responsible behavior, STI's, and non-directive family planning;
- Affordable access to contraception for all persons;
- FMLA to include paid Paternal Leave.

## ***Human Services Programs 464***

### **We support:**

- Maximizing federal matching funds for all human services programs;
- Nondiscriminatory human service providers;
- Public assistance recipients working without penalty while receiving benefits;
- Fully-funded sexual abuse treatment, support and counseling;

## ***Child Protection and Welfare 471***

### **We support:**

- Fully-funded programs promoting child health, welfare, safety, development, and prenatal care; programs focused on family preservation, permanency planning, and reducing social worker caseloads;
- Foster care systems for children up to age 21 that employ the measurable practices of timely, comprehensive evaluations, effective record management and training for parents and case workers, and inclusive data collection regarding child outcomes;
- Fully-funded, group care facilities, children's and domestic violence shelters, and outreach;
- Grandparents/kinship care providers should get the same stipends as foster parents do.

## ***Substance Abuse/Mental Health 482***

### **We support:**

- Fully-funded, comprehensive, substance abuse and mental health services and education for patients and their families.

## ***Research/Alternative Medicine 486***

### **We support:**

- Unrestricted Stem Cell Research;
- Medical use of marijuana.
- Alternative Medicine and Wellness Programs.

## ***Housing 491***

### **We support:**

- Fully-funded, affordable emergency and permanent housing for low-income and homeless persons.

## ***Elderly Services 495***

### **We support:**

- Community-based services to senior citizens and disabled persons that enable them to live independently in their homes;
- Perpetually solvent, non-privatized Social Security.

## ***People with Disabilities 500***

### **We support:**

- Strict enforcement of the ADA;

- Increased funding to provide adequate in-home, community-based services for persons with disabilities, including long-term care.

### ***Prescription Drugs 505***

#### **We support:**

- Limiting advertisement of prescription drugs;
- Negotiated drug prices for state and federal programs;
- Limiting patent extensions of pharmaceuticals, biological processes and second generation drugs;
- Eliminating Medicare Part D "Donut Hole."

## **International Relations Policy**

### ***Acronyms Used in this Section:***

**GFATM** - Global Fund for AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria

**ICE** – Immigration and Customs Enforcement

**ICESCR** - International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights

### ***Peace and Security 518***

#### **We support:**

- Withdraw all US troops from Iraq to be completed by end of 2009, handing over US military bases to the Iraqi government, and the orderly transfer of authority to the people of Iraq;
- Financial and diplomatic support for the reconstruction of Iraq in cooperation with the Iraqi government and the UN;
- Taking military action only with clear, attainable national defense goals, with fully informed Congressional consent, and, whenever possible, in concert with the international community;
- Peaceful efforts to achieve independent and secure Israeli and Palestinian States, working with all parties to end the conflict;
- Combating terrorism as an international criminal problem in cooperation with other countries;
- Meaningful and timely efforts to stop genocide;
- Comprehensive reform of, and increased funding for, border and port security;
- A steady reduction, and eventual elimination, of nuclear and biological weapons worldwide;
- Diplomacy and negotiations, including bilateral talks, regarding Iran's nuclear program;
- Normalization of diplomatic relations with Iran, Syria, Cuba and North Korea;
- Efforts to stabilize Pakistan;
- Protecting victims and prosecuting those who traffic in human beings for sexual exploitation and forced labor;
- Humane treatment and habeas corpus protection for all people.

**We oppose:**

- Subversion of democratic principles and processes in the name of national security;
- Torture, the operation of secret detention facilities, and extradition of detainees to countries known to use torture;
- Foreign military assistance, aid and training that represses citizens;
- Militarization of American foreign policy.

***Development Assistance 552*****We support:**

- Meeting UN Millennium Development Goals through diplomatic, economic and cultural means;
- Aid based on compliance with the UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights;
- Funding our share of the GFATM, and helping to develop and deliver affordable drugs;
- Comprehensive reproductive health care and family planning programs;
- Canceling impoverished countries' unsustainable debt;
- Administering reconstruction and disaster relief contracts under open bid processes;
- UN efforts to promote socially responsible corporate investing.

***Immigration 565*****We support:**

- Increased funding for improved border control;
- Improving access to legal immigration;
- Protecting immigrants and their families' civil rights;
- Equal consideration by ICE for all seeking political asylum;
- Penalizing employers for hiring illegal immigrants.

***Trade 572*****We support:**

- The reevaluation and/or renegotiation of fair trade agreements contrary to US public interest.

**We oppose:**

- Involvement in international agreements that diminish our ability to control our national destiny.

***United Nations 579*****We support:**

- The US fulfillment of its financial obligations to, and active participation in, the UN;
- US membership in the International Criminal Court;
- Adherence to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the ICESCR.

***Treaties and Conventions 586*****We support:**

- Ratification and/or full participation in:

- Geneva Convention on Treatment of Prisoners of War;
- Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women;
- Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty;
- Biological Weapons Convention Protocol;
- Ottawa Landmine Treaty;
- Kyoto Treaty on Global Warming;
- Rome Statute of the International Court of Criminal Justice;
- Convention on the Destruction of Chemical Weapons, and the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons.

### **Labor, Economy, and Commerce Policy**

#### ***Acronyms Used in this Section:***

- ATM** - Automatic Teller Machine
- CAFTA** - Central America Free Trade Agreement
- FELA** - Federal Employers Liability Act
- FRA** - Federal Railroad Administration
- IPERS**-Iowa Public Employees' Retirement System
- MSHA** - Mine Safety and Health Administration
- NAFTA** - North American Free Trade Agreement
- NIOSH** - National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health
- NLRA** - National Labor Relations Act
- NLRB** - National Labor Relations Board
- OSHA** - Occupational Safety and Health Administration
- PLA** - Project Labor Agreement
- WPA** - Works Progress Administration
- WTO** - World Trade Organization

#### ***Social Security 617***

##### **We support:**

- Social Security remaining a universal, mandatory, contributory social insurance system not subject to the risks of private investment;
- Eliminating the cap on contributions;

#### ***Consumer Protection 622***

##### **We support:**

- Consumers' right to sue for violations of Iowa's Consumer Fraud Act;
- Protection against predatory lending practices;
- Requiring businesses and organizations directly or indirectly receiving state funds to support full constitutional and civil rights;
- Content diversity and public interest protections through adequate funding and transparency of operations for public broadcasting;
- Decreasing media consolidation;
- Expanded/categorized Do-Not-Call lists.

## ***Internet 632***

### **We support:**

- National affordable broadband access;
- Net Neutrality.

## ***Jobs, Safety, and Labor 636***

### **We support:**

- The patient's right to choose a doctor and place of health care including those with on-the-job injuries.
- Repealing the Right-to-Work Law and other union busting laws;
- PLAs;
- Strengthening the NLRA;
- Full funding for the NLRB;
- "Fair-share" clauses in labor agreements;
- Equal wages and proportionate benefits for part time workers;
- The right to unionize without penalty;
- Unemployment benefits for employees during "lockouts;"
- Equal pay for equal work;
- Employers and government entities abiding by labor contracts and arbitrators' decisions;
- Considering bidders' safety records for government contracts;
- Laws discouraging "temps" replacing permanent employees;
- Eliminating employee/independent contractor misclassification;
- Public entities paying prevailing wages in contracted projects;
- Laws protecting prevailing wages (Davis Bacon Act);
- Full funding and staffing of OSHA, MSHA and NIOSH;
- The right of workers to refuse unsafe work;
- Covering all agricultural workers by health and safety statutes;
- Adequate staffing levels for workplace safety;
- Allowing employees and unions greater participation with OSHA;
- Whistleblower protection for publicly funded employees and health care workers;
- Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act.

### **We oppose:**

- Employment-at-will doctrine;
- Privatization of public jobs and services;
- Employment-related polygraph tests;
- Prison labor that displaces non-incarcerated workers;
- Mandatory overtime;
- Efforts to limit or end overtime pay;
- Out-sourcing of jobs;
- Replacement workers for strikers;
- Temporary immigration status that perpetuates exploitation of workers.

## ***Wages, Pensions, and Benefits 673***

### **We support:**

- “Living wage” as minimum wage;
- Appropriately funded, fully honored, secure, portable retirement and health care plans;
- Non-discriminatory parental leave benefits;
- Requiring large employers to contribute to health care coverage or contribute to Iowa's Medicaid fund;
- The Railroad retirement system and FELA;
- Elected officials receiving the same retirement benefits as other state, county and federal employees;
- Adequate funding of IPERS and other state pension plans;
- Removing exemptions from minimum wage laws.

### **We oppose:**

- Waiting periods before receiving Workers Compensation and unemployment benefits;

## ***Economic Development 688***

### **We support:**

- Incentives for companies to remain in the US;
- Strengthening laws to protect employees during plant closing or bankruptcy;
- Listing employees as first-in-line creditors;
- Student loan forgiveness for staying in Iowa;
- Rebuilding the US with a WPA-type program;
- US made products;
- Eliminating subsidies for large businesses;
- Development of small local enterprises;
- A federal jobs program, vocational training and retraining;
- Encouraging local entrepreneurs through small business loans.

## ***Curbing Business Abuses 701***

### **We support:**

- Enforcement of anti-trust legislation;
- Applying corporate tax penalties for excessive officer compensation.

### **We oppose:**

- Allowing non-banking entities to establish banks;
- Tax benefits and loopholes for companies moving to offshore havens;
- Double charges on ATM's, excessive bank fees and credit card interest rates, payday loans, car titles loans, tax refund anticipation loans, and other predatory lending practices;
- Insurance credit scoring.

## ***Commerce and Transportation 712***

### **We support:**

- Minimum 90% US manufactured content "Made in the USA" labeled products;
- Country of origin labeling;
- "Fair trade" as opposed to "free trade;"
- Increased funding for Amtrak and FRA;
- Securing imports from contaminants;
- Quality inspections of all imports, financed by importer;
- Regulation of private equity firms that is similar to publicly traded companies;
- Efforts to control price gouging.
- Small businesses.

### **We oppose:**

- Deregulating the electric utility industry;
- Corporate welfare, indiscriminate bailouts, and tax breaks;
- WTO, NAFTA and CAFTA;
- No-bid government contracts.

### **Active Participants in the Platform's Development**

Bill Aosse (In-Ch), Susan Benderson (Ag-Sc\*), Catherine Crist (Pt-Ch\*), David Deshaies Crist (Gv\*), Kelly DeVore (Ed-Sc\*), Dennis Dye (HI), Adam Evanschwartz (In), Ken Gilchrist (Pt-Ch\*), Jeffrey Glenn (Ag), Chris Glover (Gv-Sc\*), Adam Hartig (Gv), Jason Hedges (Gv\*), John L Heitz (Ed-Ch\*), Patricia Henrich (HI\*), Larry Hodgden (Ag), Lloyd Holecek (Ag\*), Mary Huneke (Gv), Maneta Hunter (Lb\*), Robert King (Pt-Sc), John Klopp (Ed), Steve Kranz (Lb), Joe Michalec (Lb-Sc\*), Tony Miell (In-Sc\*), Gerald Mitchell (Gv\*), Terri Nekvinda (Ed), M.C. "Joe" Rayer (Gv\*), Michelle Ray-Michalec (Lb-Ch\*), Julia Redman-Carter (Gv), Jackie Reeder (Ed), Frank Reynolds (Lb\*), Bob Richards (Ag), Mike Robinson (HI-Ch\*), Laura Runkle (In), Micheal D Smith (HI), Joe Stutler (Gv-Ch\*), Linda Sutherland (HI\*), Deb Tapken (Ed\*), Lorena Thullen (Ed), Dewayne Titus (Gv), Jenifer Vick (HI), Chris Warren (HI), Linda Weber (Gv), Laurie Whightsil (In\*), Andy Wildenberg (Ag-Ch\*)

Sub-committee codes: Ag = Agricultural, Energy, and Environment , Ed = Education, Gv = Government and Law, HI = Health and Human Services, In = International Relations, Lb = Labor, Economy, and Commerce.

The "\*" indicates members who would like to participate in the District 2 Platform Development.