
From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Public Hearing
Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 13:30:11 CDT
Attachments:

I would like to speak at the Public Hearing of the Governor's Boards & Commissions Review Committee on September 6 at Noon on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Iowa.

Please respond with confirmation that I will be one of the 50 speakers.

Thank you.

[REDACTED]
Co-President League of Women Voters of Iowa

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Need for more specific information.
Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 15:17:26 CDT
Attachments:

Many recommendations for boards and commissions are for reorganize, consolidate, merge, or other changes. Where can I see the specifics for these recommendations for each of the boards or commissions. Without the specifics how would someone be able to determine if they approve or disapprove?

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: BCR Issues

Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 16:21:03 CDT

Attachments:

Hello BCR Committee Members:

What is the reasoning/rationale for these recommended changes to the Iowa Boards and Commissions, especially those which are to be Eliminated?

Would there be political bias involved in this process?

Would the modifications or eliminations affect public safety in a dangerous or detrimental way?

The General Public probably doesn't know or is totally unaware of the workings and necessity for these Iowa Boards and Commissions.

And why specifically were these Panels originally created?

Does the Iowa Public have the legal wherewithal to block the elimination of any of these Iowa Boards or Commissions which serve to oversee the Public Safety, Health, and Security for the Citizens of Iowa?

How will Iowans know what is at stake regarding the modifications or eliminations of these entities, if they are not aware of the rationale for their original creation?

This could be a long and arduous process, in that sense.

But how otherwise should Iowans protect their rights and benefits within the rules and regulations of Iowa?

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject: comments
Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 19:55:16 CDT
Attachments:

Thanks for reviewing the Iowa boards and commissions.
follows my suggestions:

- 1.- gender balance
- 2.- party affiliation balance
- 3.- include in all boards/commissions a non-party affiliation person (neutral)
- 4.- No more than 7-9 persons on each board/commissions
- 5.- representation from all Iowa districts around the state
- 6.- Executive Director of board/commission should not have conflict of interest with the state Code 68B (2A) and 68B.3
EG: Reyes Equity Institute LLC (owned by Latino Affairs Executive Director.- Sonia Reyes)
violation of code 68B.3 public bids required disclosure of income from other sales.
68B. 2A Prohibit outside employment and activities of conflict of interest.
Agency officials and employees, while they are engaged in activities within the agency in which they serve on. Or
are employed with another agency's or employee agency involved in a collaborative project by doing business with state grants or
doing public bids with the state (even though if the bids are competitive) while being an employee or Executive director is a violation of the Iowa Code.
- 7.- All Executive directors and the appointees to serve on boards and commissions should have a clearance with the Government Ethics and Lobbying Act.

Thank you very much,
[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Speak in front of the review committee

Date: Tue Aug 29 2023 21:37:31 CDT

Attachments:

I would like to speak in front of the board re: gender balance.

[REDACTED]

I represent myself.

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments for BCRC
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 10:11:06 CDT
Attachments:

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I represent the organization One Iowa. We would like to comment on the proposal to roll multiple commissions into the Iowa Civil Rights Commission as well as comment on the overarching recommendation to remove the gender balance requirements for Iowa boards and commissions.

[REDACTED]
One Iowa

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Sept 6 hearing
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 10:39:58 CDT
Attachments:

Hello,
I wish to sign up to provide comments on the proposed board and commissions revisions.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]
Ames

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Request to speak at Sept. 6 meeting
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 11:38:05 CDT
Attachments:

Hello,

My name is [REDACTED] and I'd like to request to speak at the Sept. 6th Boards and Commissions Review Committee on behalf of the Iowa Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics.

If the meeting is estimated to take more than an hour, if possible I'd like to request to speak within the first hour (12-1PM) as I will need to leave for another commitment.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

--
--

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Questions
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 11:38:49 CDT
Attachments:

Hi,

Can you please tell me what consolidate/merge means? How will this be determined?

Also, if boards are eliminated. For example, the board of dietetics, does that mean dietitians won't have to be licensed in the state of Iowa?

Lastly, what if some of these boards are required federally? Will these boards need to form on their own to fulfill requirements?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Speaking 9-6-2023
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 12:12:47 CDT
Attachments:

Please add me to the list to speak in person.

And I would request confirmation that this has been received?

Thanks,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Gender Balance
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 12:52:46 CDT
Attachments:

The current status of gender balance on state boards and commissions as an "arbitrary requirement" is not an onerous one and should remain in place as is. One need look no further than the U.S. Supreme Court's decision to eliminate the national voting law that requires certain states to get permission before changing their voting regulations. No sooner had that ruling been made than suspect states began passing laws that make voting more difficult. Withdrawing support for gender equity is certain to result in a drop in efforts to encourage women to participate in local and state governance. Why would Iowa want to take that chance?

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Gender Balance
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 13:21:07 CDT
Attachments:

Dear Members of the Governor's Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

Please do not eliminate the requirement for gender balance on state boards and commissions. It is important that decisions and recommendations are made by a group representing all Iowa citizens. This requirement can be met with a 90 day good faith effort to recruit, so no board or commission will be unable to do their work if a woman cannot be found.

Please do not eliminate the Commission on the Status of Women. We have a long way to go in providing opportunities for women in leadership positions. If this commission were to be rolled into the Human Rights Commission, its mission and visibility arguably could be diluted. Without more detail, it is hard to know how this would play out, but any decision that minimizes the participation of women in state government will not be good for Iowa.

Thank you for considering this input.

Best Regards,

[REDACTED]
Iowa City
District 1

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Boards and commissions...
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 13:23:52 CDT
Attachments:

I disagree with the efforts to minimize these boards and commissions. Particularly troubling is the concept of eliminating the gender requirement. Having our boards and commissions gender and party equal has been a cornerstone of Iowa. PLEASE DON'T CHANGE THIS.

[REDACTED] (former chair of the Council on Human Services)

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Request to speak at public hear
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 14:07:28 CDT
Attachments:

Good afternoon,

I would like to speak at the public hearing on 9/6 on the Review Committee's recommendations. I would like to request a remote accommodation. I will be representing the Knee Center for the Study of Occupational Regulation at West Virginia University. Thank you very much in advance.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] on

Service Associate Professor of Economics

John Chambers College of Business and Economics

West Virginia University

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Iowa law requiring boards and commissions to seek gender balance
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 14:28:26 CDT
Attachments:

The current Iowa law requiring boards and commissions to be gender balanced should be maintained.

- * Under current law, Iowa leads with the most mixed-gender boards—but that’s still fewer than 2 in 3 of them.
- * Almost all state boards and commissions comply, and there is no need to repeal the law
- * Current law only requires 90 days to “apply a good faith effort” to recruit to fill the gender balance requirement

[REDACTED]
Johnson County, Iowa

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Review Boards & Commission Committee Inquiry

Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 16:12:04 CDT

Attachments:

Dear Mr. Paulsen,

I am writing to inquire about the Review Boards & Commission Committee. What criteria did the committee utilize in determining the status of the boards and committees?

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Written comments on proposal re: boards and commissions
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 20:25:02 CDT
Attachments:

I am not requesting to speak. I am providing the following written comments for the Committee's consideration. These comments pertain specifically to professional licensing boards.

1. To the extent that boards will be merging or combining, the maximum number of board members must be capped at 9, or preferably 7 when feasible. In recent years, there was a legislative proposal to combine the Board of Behavioral Science (12 members) with the Board of Social Work (7 members) to create a new 19 member board. It would have been extremely inefficient and almost impossible to function with this many board members. As boards are merged or combined, existing seats must be eliminated to maintain a 7 or 9 member board. If larger boards are created, any efficiencies gained by the merger will be lost due to the increase in size.

2. ALJs must be given the authority to preside over the reception of evidence in disciplinary hearings for boards governed by Iowa Code chapter 272C. This can be accomplished by amending Iowa Code section 272C.6(1) to add ALJs to the list. It is difficult to find hearing dates that work for the board members and the parties in a contested case. Consequently, disciplinary hearings are often delayed months or years due to scheduling issues. This is not in the best interest of the public, particularly since the Iowa Supreme Court has ruled that allegations against licensees must remain confidential until the final order in a case. Giving ALJs the authority to hear cases would dramatically improve scheduling, decrease the time between case initiation and disposition, and also promote fairness. As an example, ALJs have the authority to preside over the reception of evidence in disciplinary hearings involving licensees of the Board of Educational Examiners (governed by Iowa Code chapter 272).

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Governor's proposal
Date: Wed Aug 30 2023 20:34:04 CDT
Attachments:

I am a concerned citizen from Iowa. I have the Governor's proposal to eliminate/ modify numerous state/ county boards under the disguise of stream lining and efficiency. Stop the nonsense. She is not about Iowa. It's all about her image so she thinks she has a shot of being someone's VP candidate. I hope you take a long look at this and realize it is not in the best interest of our state.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Gender balance

Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 03:53:54 CDT

Attachments:

I urge you to retain gender balance requirements for state boards. No good reason to eliminate this—sends women the wrong message. I was once told I was best qualified for a job but the board was giving it to a man with a family. Why do you want to go backward?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 10:56:05 CDT
Attachments:

To Whom it May Concern,

State Boards and Commissions exist for a reason, to protect the public, and to serve as a watchdog and sanctioning body for professional conduct while ensuring that the rights of all lowans are represented.

Governor Kim Reynolds efforts to either eliminate or hamstring these boards or commissions flies in the face of representative government, and smacks of another vain attempt to usurp more power, and silence those who disagree with her scorched Earth philosophy of governance.

It's clear that her hand picked AG is no more than a lackey to do her bidding.

As a lifelong resident of the once great State of Iowa, I'm appalled by the lengths that Governor Reynolds is willing to go to in removing checks and balances in our State. This is just another example of her unbridled lust for power, regardless of who it affects.

You can count this lowan as being vehemently opposed to this charade. If anything we need more checks and balances to ensure that lowans are not hoodwinked into allowing further erosion of their rights to have their voices heard by this feckless pair who are attempting to silence the majority of people they supposedly serve.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Opposition to removing gender-balance requirement
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 12:21:23 CDT
Attachments: Lanegran's comments to BCRC.docx

Hello,

I am unable to attend your Sept 6 hearing and therefore send these comments to you. I would love for them to be read aloud by a staff member during your hearing.

I write to express my strong opposition to your proposal to repeal Iowa's gender-balance requirement.

First: None of your findings justify such a change. You provide no evidence that this requirement is having any negative impact on the work of any of Iowa's boards or commissions. The wording of your recommendation implies that poorly-qualified people are being appointed to the boards, yet you provide no evidence to support that. You have insulted every member of a board or commission across our state.

Second: Kraig Paulsen is quoted in the Iowa Capital Dispatch and Jane Bloomingdale is quoted in the Des Moines Register making the feeble argument that it may be hard to find people to obtain gender balance on boards. Paulsen comes up with 1 example: the Electrical Examining Board, but that is on your list to consolidate/merge! Furthermore, Paulsen states "effectively we're at 50-50" (he must be referring to only the state boards), so the balance IS BEING ACHIEVED! Your only argument appears to be that you think complying is difficult. That is grossly inadequate justification.

Third: You assert that the requirement is "arbitrary." That is clearly not true. The population of Iowa is 50.3% women and 49.7% men. Therefore, the requirement reflects the gender composition of the citizens of the state. Governments in democracies, in order to remain legitimate and reflective of the needs and preferences of the citizens, must be proportionately composed of all segments of that population to represent their interests. Diversity of experiences, perspectives and ideas are required in representative government. Furthermore, people need to see themselves represented in their policy-makers in order to gain confidence in the democratic process.

Fourth: Kraig Paulsen is quoted in the Iowa Capita Dispatch saying "so the law accomplished what it needed to do." He must only be referring to the state boards, for which the requirement is firm, and not for the county and municipal boards, which require only a "good faith" effort for

three months to try to achieve a gender balanced board. According to state-wide data collected by the Catt Center at Iowa State University on a set of county and municipal boards, 61% of county boards and 62% of city boards were gender balanced in 2022. Furthermore, because balance can be achieved for an odd-numbered board with one gender holding one more seat, women held just 38% of county board seats and 43% of municipal board seats last year.

Fifth: Kraig Paulsen appears to suggest that the legislation is not necessary because gender balance will be achieved without it. The status of women's representation on county and municipal boards disproves that assertion. Without this law, women will continue to be underrepresented on appointed boards throughout the state. Officials will revert to status quo appointment efforts and strive less to find new types of people for boards and commissions. Men, for their part, will probably be underrepresented on library boards.

Sixth: The intent of this recommendation is abundantly clear: to maintain men's dominance in these parts of Iowa's governance structure. For that will certainly be its result.

The effort to repeal Iowa's gender balance legislation died in the last legislative session. It must not be included in your recommendations.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

Coe College
1220 1st Ave NE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52402

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: [REDACTED] comments to BCRC.docx

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 12:21:23 CDT 2023

RE: Opposition to one of the preliminary recommendations from the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee

I write to express my strong opposition to your proposal to repeal Iowa’s gender-balance requirement.

First: None of your findings justify such a change. You provide no evidence that this requirement is having any negative impact on the work of any of Iowa’s boards or commissions. The wording of your recommendation implies that poorly-qualified people are being appointed to the boards, yet you provide no evidence to support that. You have insulted every member of a board or commission across our state.

Second: Kraig Paulsen is quoted in the *Iowa Capital Dispatch* and Jane Bloomingdale is quoted in the *Des Moines Register* making the feeble argument that it may be hard to find people to obtain gender balance on boards. Paulsen comes up with 1 example the Electrical Examining Board, but that is on your list to consolidate/merge! Furthermore, Paulsen states “effectively we’re at 50-50” (he must be referring to only the state boards), so the balance IS BEING ACHIEVED! Your only argument appears to be that you think complying is difficult. That is grossly inadequate justification.

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Fourth: Kraig Paulsen is quoted in the *Iowa Capita Dispatch* saying “so the law accomplished what it needed to do.” He must only be referring to the state boards, for which the requirement is firm, and not for the county and municipal boards, which require only a “good faith” effort for three months to try to achieve a gender balanced board. According to state-wide data collected by the Catt Center at Iowa State University on a set of county and municipal boards, 61% of county boards and 62% of city boards were gender balanced in 2022. Furthermore, because balance can be achieved for an odd-numbered board with one gender holding one more seat, women held just 38% of county board seats and 43% of municipal board seats last year.

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Sixth: The intent of this recommendation is abundantly clear: to maintain men’s dominance in these parts of Iowa’s governance structure. For that will certainly be its result.

The effort to repeal Iowa’s gender balance legislation died in the last legislative session. It must not be included in your recommendations.

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: State Government Streamline
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 12:23:15 CDT
Attachments:

I saw on Channel 5 you are requesting feedback on your reorganization and streamline efforts.

First, I would like to commend Governor Reynolds and her entire team including the legislature for taking on this issue and working to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of our state's government. You have tackled a topic in need of attention that your predecessors seemed unwilling to address. The changes you have made have both immediate and lasting impact on Iowa and its citizens. This should be recognized as valuable across party lines. Thank you for your efforts!

I have previously worked in consulting helping organizations improve similar aspects of their operations. This can be a very rewarding experience. While most of the organizations I assisted were private manufacturers across the state, some were public entities. I did much of this work while employed at RSM (formerly known as McGladrey & Pullen). I lead development of their manufacturing systems (ERP) evaluation and selection services. This prepared me to help assess business processes to identify improvement opportunities including information systems enhancements & upgrades.

Observations that I wanted to share that could benefit your efforts include:

1. Multiple state organizations/agencies performing similar business processes often use different business systems/software

a. I especially observed this when working with Area Education Agencies (AEA) – at the time each AEA self-managed selection and use of their business systems

i. Using common systems across the organization would yield many improvements such as:

1. Improved system knowledge for better use & results

2. Ability to share best practices for optimal use of the common systems
3. Potential for centralized system support (user help desk)
 - a. Centralized IT support across all AEA's rather than each doing this individually
4. Ability to negotiate better system purchase contracts due to higher volume of users (license costs/user commonly go down as the user size increases)
 - a. Associated reduced cost of systems implementations by using standardized setup designs

Another area with potentially larger improvement impact opportunity would be reorganization of services for Iowa's 99 counties. I don't know the full breadth of your efforts to date, so you may have already done some of this. It seems that the historic aspect of having 99 counties is nostalgic and has merit, but it seemingly leads to major redundancies in locations and personnel providing common services. We have seen school consolidations and community service consolidations such as fire & police due to cost. Similar efforts across counties could be beneficial to share resources reducing cost while not compromising the quality of service provided. In a related area, a few weeks ago I heard a story on the radio regarding emergency response. A project was underway to study & possibly implement methods learned in another country (maybe Israel?) on how a network of local volunteer providers could help reduce the time to arrive onsite and begin care. This type of ingenuity and willingness to learn best practices that can be implemented where warranted will be the foundation of continuing your reengineering efforts.

Thanks again for your efforts to date. I have recently retired, so if I can be of assistance in any way, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Have a great day!

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Seeking advice ?
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 13:14:38 CDT
Attachments:

If you are seeking advice then that shows that you don't know what you are doing.
There is a reason these groups set up to have knowledgeable experienced people in charge.
To say you can do it better with not knowing what you are doing is doubtful and irresponsible.
Typical arrogance from idiots.
You are going to mess up decades of good ideas in pursuit of making complicated things seem understandable to fools.
LEAVE IT ALL ALONE. You are idiots

Sent from my iPad

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Gender Balance
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:15:20 CDT
Attachments:

I strongly encourage the state of Iowa to keep the current law which requires a good faith effort to seek gender balance on state commissions. Iowa has been a leader in gender balance and it is a good thing for Iowa and for women. For too long women have been left out of the public sphere, and having this law is helping toward a fairer balance of genders. Women take their responsibilities very seriously. There is absolutely no reason to repeal this law.
>From a lifelong Iowa woman who wants to be proud of our state,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Arbitrary Requirement for gender balance.
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 16:52:46 CDT
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
image006.png
image007.jpg
image008.png

I am applying to speak at the public hearing on Sept. 6th for elimination of the gender balance requirement. My comments.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

League of Women Voters of the US
1233 20th Street NW, Suite 500
Washington, DC, 20036
www.lwv.org | www.vote411.org

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023

image001.png for Printed Item
(Attachment 1 of 8)

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Page 31 of 133

Owner:

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Filename: image002.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023

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Owner:

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Filename: image003.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image004.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image005.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023

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Item:

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image006.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023

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Items:

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Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image007.jpg

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023



Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image008.png

Last Modified: Thu Aug 31 16:52:46 CDT 2023



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of png to

Printed Item: 26

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject:
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 20:56:07 CDT
Attachments:

Disclaimer

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From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: eliminations
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 21:06:08 CDT
Attachments:

It is unhealthy for a representative state government to eliminate the vary boards and agencies which allow fellow lowans their voice....We don't need to give more power to the Office of Governor, nor do we want to weaken representative government by giving prominence to the monied donor class.

We need to ensure all lowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government. And, eliminating the very avenue we citizens have, to make our concerns known, is NOT it.

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Gender balance
Date: Thu Aug 31 2023 21:17:50 CDT
Attachments:

I urge u to retain the gender balance requirement for state boards and commissions. As a state employment I had first hand experience working with a gender balanced commission.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Request to speak at Sept. 6 Boards and Commissions Review Committee Meeting
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 08:59:40 CDT
Attachments: image001.png

Good morning,

I am interested in addressing the Boards and Commissions Review Committee on September 6 if a virtual option is available. I would be interested in sharing research from my nonprofit, the Institute for Justice, on sunrise reviews and on occupational licensing burdens in Iowa.

Thank you!

Best,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

image001.png

Last Modified:

Fri Sep 01 08:59:40 CDT 2023



IJ

INSTITUTE

for

JUSTICE

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Public comment for changes to boards and commissions
[REDACTED]

Governor Reynolds,

Thank you for your leadership in our great state. I applaud efforts to increase the efficiency and effectiveness of state boards and commissions. I have been a nurse for 35 years, a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner for 25 years, a nursing professor for 23 years, and a college administrator at the dean level for 8 years in the state of Iowa. I also serve on the ARNP Advisory Board for the Iowa Board of Nursing (voluntary appointed position) and have served on several national nurse practitioner boards and committees. I also have particular experience and expertise in interprofessional education and practice, primarily among health science and humanities professions. My comments are not as a representative of my current employer, The University of Iowa College of Nursing.

I am in favor of the Boards and Commissions subcommittee recommendations dated August 29th specifically related to the health science and humanities boards' reorganization. In lieu of a lack of additional detail about how that reorganization would eventually look, I would recommend that strong representation be maintained for all levels of nursing as the state and national competencies, licensing, certification, and accreditation standards are varied and complicated (eg. for ADNs, LPNs, RNs, ARNPs, etc...). I also feel strongly that nurses and advanced practice nurses need to be regulated by those with a nursing background at the state and national level. I believe an interprofessional regulatory board or commission could be effective and may facilitate cohesive legislative decision-making at the state level, rather than divisiveness in regard to healthcare practice roles and access to care for the people of Iowa.

Please feel free to reach out to me for clarification or further comments.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Public meeting signup
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 10:37:35 CDT
Attachments:

[REDACTED] [REDACTED]
American Association of University Women of Iowa
Removal of equal representation of men and women on commissions mandate

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject:
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 11:54:53 CDT
Attachments:

I am greatly concerned that the action to drastically reduce, merge, eliminate boards and commissions.

There has, on purpose, extremely little time for the public (We taxpayers, don't forget, want to have a voice, as do affected public members whose charge affects us). The proposed changes are NOT minor.

What is painfully evident is that these recommendations consolidate the power of the executive office...AND the changes suggested also limit public oversight of our state government! This consolidation of power most certainly diminishes the voices of Iowans.

Both are anathema to democratic governance.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Request to Speak on 9.2.2023
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 12:11:40 CDT
Attachments:

Director Paulsen,

Please accept this email as my request to provide public comments to the Committee on 9.6.2023.

My name is [REDACTED]

I will be representing the Iowa Athletic Trainers Society, the American Physical Therapy Association of Iowa, and the Iowa State Bar Association.

Thank you for the opportunity to address the Committee.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments re: Gov. Board and Commission Review Council
Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 15:04:35 CDT
Attachments:

Friend

I'm writing to share my concerns about the Aug. 29, 2023 released BOARDS & COMMISSIONS REVIEW COMMITTEE report.

I understand there is a public meeting scheduled for Sept 6, but I am unable to attend due to being out of town on this date. I am sharing my reactions to the report and outlining my suggestion for recommended actions to

I understand the recommendations would eliminate and/or consolidate the state's 256 boards and commissions down to 140.

I have some specific comments for your consideration here based upon findings and recommendations of the report:

1. There needs to be greater public discussion and accountability for these recommended changes

* The report lists the recommended changes, but does not spell out any justification nor how the recommendations were determined.

* I have learned the process of coming up with these recommendations seems to have skirted public oversight - the 6 member Board was broken into 2 member subcommittees that could meet privately without violating Iowa's open meetings laws.

* The ONE public hearing is just two hours long - it's hard to understand how this all feeds into better public participation in its boards and commissions process as called for in Finding #3 of the report.

* Will this hearing include the opportunity for virtual public participation? Again that would be consistent with Recommendation #3

* Some changes may make sense, but it's hard to determine based upon so little information and so little opportunity for public discussion.

* RECOMMENDATION 6: Increase engagement on identified critical boards and commissions by compensating

members for their “part time” work. I agree service without compensation (at least a stipend and mileage) makes it really hard for some to contribute to the fullest. I would support this, but only with very clear explanation of how compensation is determined and what accountability is expected to receive that compensation.

2. Changes need to reflect a better understanding of the role of Boards and commissions

* RECOMMENDATION 4: Allow boards and commissions to convene only as truly needed by removing arbitrary meeting requirements - I suggest they are making a wrongly placed argument. The point should be that bd and commissions need to revisit their purpose and develop a plan of work and meeting timeline that aligns appropriately. The case I hear in this recommendation reflects potentially missing leadership and vision about the role of some of these bodies. If there is a clear sense of purpose paired with strong leadership, then meetings will not be arbitrary.

* The Committee making these recommendations should see their role as educating about the role of Boards and Commissions not just shrinking their size.

3. Do not use changes to eliminate a more diverse set of voices informing decision making in Iowa

* RECOMMENDATION 5: Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement. I think this risks eliminating some important voices depending upon who determines "most qualified".

4. One Council elimination undermines emerging opportunities - serves as one puzzling elimination that undermines confidence in these recommendations

* One of the Councils targeted to be eliminated is the Local Food & Farm Program Advisory Council.

*

The 2021 Farm to Fork Task Force, Chaired by Sec. of Ag Mike Naig, recommended the revitalization and expansion of the Farm to Fork Task Force which I believe is the same (different name) as the Local Food & Farm Program Advisory Council - all linked back to the 2011 Local Food & Farm Plan. Just this past session (2023) legislation was passed to follow up on that step and the renewed Council met early April of this year for the first time. The Council has an excellent set of representatives with great experience across farm and food businesses. There's great potential for the Council to be an effective arm of engagement around Iowa's expanding local and regional food system initiatives just as the Iowa Food System Coalition's (IFSC) food system plan - Setting the Table for All Iowans - is set to come out this fall. While the plan is entering the final editing stages, I invite you to learn more about the Coalition and check out the plan details we have posted there by visiting the IFSC website.

Seems to me this elimination cuts out this commitment of the government to be more directly involved in big picture food system coordination.

That's just one puzzling elimination.

Recommended action

1. Support trust and confidence in decision making and policy change.

1. I urge the Committee to ensure adequate time for an open and transparent public discussion - that means ample time for the Committee to answer comments, not just receive comments.

2. I urge the Committee to make sure folks can participate virtually as well as in person in the public comment phase.

3. I expect the Committee take a more proactive role in strengthening Boards and Commissions with a clear articulation of the role they play in improving how government serves the needs of all Iowans and provide the support around clarity of role and necessary leadership to fulfill said role

4. The Committee has a responsibility to ensure a diverse set of voices informs Iowa policy making and continue to stand up for a broad approach to recruiting that diversity on Boards and Commissions throughout the state. This means supporting not only gender balance, but race, social economic, and gender identity.

5. Do not eliminate the Local Food & Farm Program Advisory Council - instead - support it to be part of the emerging support for a vibrant local and regional food system as an integral part of Iowa's agriculture.

Thank you for considering my comments.

[REDACTED]

(her/she) - Why does it matter?

One Step at a Time Gardens - building connection to the land

[REDACTED]

Raising healthy food, raising hope

From:

[REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Board Recommendations

Date: Fri Sep 01 2023 15:55:29 CDT

Attachments:

It is critical that the process for changes to Iowa Boards be slowed down. No one is claiming the current situation is ideal but to make this many adjustments on the advice of 6 people with so little public information, transparency and input makes the process appear suspect. There is no reason to hurry this process. How can one justify a 2 hour public comment period for this many proposed changes. This is irresponsible.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Subject:

Consolidation of Boards

[REDACTED]

Re: Consolidation of Iowa Boards

The process carried out in determining the proposed consolidation and elimination was performed without public monitoring. The reasoning rationale of each Board or Commission isn't provided to the public. With such a blanket sweeping away of public transparency, an orchestration of good faith in democracy has been denied.

As a result, the Governor's Administration on this matter is out of order. Thus, the Boards and Commissions should remain as is until an open, transparent process is conducted.

Best regards,

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: Say no to removing gender balance requirement

Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 10:01:01 CDT

Attachments:

Hello -

I am writing to ask that you do not do away with the gender balance requirement for boards and commissions in Iowa.

It is important to have a wide perspective on committees when they are making decisions. This rule does not hinder finding candidates as they can move forward after 90 days.

Please leave the gender balance requirement in place.

Thank you -

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Bcc:

Subject: B/C Public Comments

Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 10:23:38 CDT

Attachments:

I would like to speak in favor of the B/C proposal on behalf of the Foundation for Government Accountability.

If possible, can I speak at the front end of the public comments? I need to leave early for an event in Cedar Rapids.

Thanks,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCCOMMENTS@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Eliminating Iowa State Boards and Committees
[REDACTED]

Naturally, the number of Iowa BOARDS and COMMITTEES have blossomed over the years without much consideration. The "Let's Form a BOARD or COMMITTEE" has gotten out of hand and redundant and needs to be reduced and revisited.

By eliminating a large number of Iowa State Boards and Committees, Governor Reynolds and the Iowa State Legislature are cutting consideration of many IOWANS and IOWA businesses. The variety of those affected is obviously monumental. Citizens of Iowa would benefit from CAREFUL CONSIDERATIONS regarding the combining and the purpose of these many Boards and COMMITTEES and their INTENDED PURPOSE. This may take TIME and CAREFUL CONSIDERATION.

Developing NEW BOARDS and COMMITTEES should NOT be a REPUBLICAN swipe! DEMOCRATS and other interested people from the various committees should take time and great efforts to make these FAIR to all IOWANS, NOT JUST THE REPUBLICANS INVOLVED. Each Board or Committee should be able to form policies and be responsible for certain areas such as Agriculture, Education, Taxes, State Government, Cities and Towns, Health and Human Services, Banking, and Licensing to name a few categories. Each Board or Committee should have well defined parameters to cover IOWA NEEDS.

LET'S DO THIS RIGHT WITH CAREFUL CONSIDERATION FOR ALL IOWANS!

Respectfully,

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc: Zach Wahls <zach.wahls@legis.iowa.gov>;
janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov <janice.weiner@legis.iowa.gov>;
dawn.driscoll@legis.iowa.gov <dawn.driscoll@legis.iowa.gov>;
heather.hora@legis.iowa.gov <heather.hora@legis.iowa.gov>; Dave
Jacoby <david.jacoby@legis.iowa.gov>;
elinor.levin@legis.iowa.gov <elinor.levin@legis.iowa.gov>;
Amy.Nielsen@legis.iowa.gov <amy.nielsen@legis.iowa.gov>;
brad.sherman@legis.iowa.gov <brad.sherman@legis.iowa.gov>;
adam.zabner@legis.iowa.gov <adam.zabner@legis.iowa.gov>

Bcc:

Subject: Boards and Commission Review Committee - recommendation/comment

Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 12:03:34 CDT

Attachments:

Hello Committee members -

The governor's process to reduce the number of departments after so many years, while important, was also flawed. The process lacked sufficient opportunities for public input. That absence of transparency eroded the public's confidence in state government, which is unfortunate because aligning Iowa's boards and commissions with the governor's departmental reorganization is the next logical step.

Change is hard but change is necessary. The governor says Senate File 514 will make government smaller and more efficient, saving taxpayers money. Let's hope that's true, but until all the facts are in let's allow for public input and more transparency. Forcing legislation on Iowans without public input is not democracy. It is autocracy.

Careful consideration must be given to each board and commission to guarantee fairness, and the public must have an opportunity to comment on the reorganization. The commenting process via a Gmail account is a change from submitting comments on the legis.iowa.gov website, which no longer allows the public to see comments, and that too is unfortunate.

Change is hard. This is complicated. And it will take time. Part of the SF514 departmental reorganization bill, a 1,300-plus page document, included a provision to create a Board and Commission Review Committee. Your committee has met and has until Sept. 30 to make final recommendations to the governor concerning Iowa's 256 boards and commissions.

Depending on where you get your information, the committee has suggested eliminating 69 state panels, merging 52 into other bodies, and reorganizing 47 boards and commissions allowing 88 boards and commissions will continue operating in their existing format. Another evaluation of the committee's work indicates 116 boards will be eliminated or folded into other boards which leaves 140 boards and commissions with the remaining boards adopting a change in function and membership.

Once again, Iowa's gender balance requirement is threatened. The current law only requires 90 days to "apply a good faith effort" to recruit and fill the gender-balance requirement. There is no need to eliminate this equity requirement. While almost all boards and commissions comply – overturning this provision means Iowa's oversight boards and commissions will become less diverse and less representative than the communities they serve. If the governor chooses to eliminate this law, demographic criteria will become endangered.

If Iowa wants to be a leader, it must maintain innovation and find ways to encourage women to take leadership roles to advance Iowa's position in government, business, and industry. Facts show that women take responsibilities seriously. Women are shouldering economic responsibility for their families:

U.S. Census Quick Facts for Iowa reports the percent of the female civilian labor force population over 16 years is 62.7% for the period 2017-2021. In 2022, the U.S. labor force participation rate for women was 56.8%.

An Iowa GOP senator is quoted as saying gender imbalance has been corrected or that it will correct itself. History tells us that's simply not true. Too often women's voices have been overlooked. If Iowa is to achieve fairness and equity, women must have leadership roles on its boards and commissions to achieve balance. Gender balance on state boards and commissions is necessary. Maintaining a gender balance legislative requirement encourages women to serve on state boards and commissions, which may ultimately encourage women to run for office. Isn't this how women rose to leadership positions becoming our governor and senator? Gender balance ensures women have opportunities to lead. Iowa's gender balance works.



From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: The Governor's Boards and Commissions Review
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 14:44:19 CDT
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

I am opposed to ending the requirement for gender balance. Women make up more than 50% of Iowa's population yet have less representation now with the gender balance requirement. This proposal is a proposal to step backwards.

I am concerned about eliminating so many existing boards and commissions that serve minority and marginalized individuals into the Human Rights Commission. Iowa needs people from other countries to do essential work. We need to recognize their voices through boards and commissions.

Finally, the process for these changes initiated in private and giving the public 4 days notice and allowing only 50 people to speak for 2 minutes does not feel open or transparent in the way I would like to see Iowa government work.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

--

[REDACTED]

All we have to do is to wake up and change.

Greta Thunberg

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Commission Hearing September 6, 2023
Date: Sat Sep 02 2023 14:49:47 CDT
Attachments:

Good Afternoon,

My name is [REDACTED]. I writing to request the opportunity to speak at the public hearing on September 6, 2023, at Noon. Thank you very much.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Sent from Mail for Windows

From:

[REDACTED]

To:

BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

[REDACTED]

Subject: Comments on Boards and Commissions Review Committee
Recommendations

[REDACTED]

Attached are comments from the Sierra Club about the recommendations from the Boards and Commissions Review Committee.

Thank you for considering these comments.

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Filename: boards and commissions.pdf

Last Modified: Sat Sep 02 16:18:44 CDT 2023



September 2, 2023

Boards and Commissions Review Committee
Via email to BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

The Sierra Club appreciates having an opportunity to comment on the proposed recommendations being offered by the Boards and Commissions Review committee. We offer the following comments on the findings and recommendations.

General overview

It is not clear what problem the Boards and Commissions Review Committee is trying to solve. Bill SF514 which established the review committee laid out its function as to study the efficiency and effectiveness of each board, council, commission, committee, or other similar entity of the state established by the Iowa Code and to evaluate the extent to which the goals and objectives of those entities are currently being met and make recommendations for the continuation, elimination, consolidation, or reorganization of those entities. This Review Committee has not provided the details that justify their findings and recommendations for each board.

Although this may have seemed like a wonky exercise, it is obvious that the recommendations will have far-reaching impacts on everyday Iowans and how state government is able to respond to the problems and issues that we are facing, such as clean water, healthy air, and government regulations that work for all of us.

The recommendations appear to reduce and restrict the public access and input in the decision-making process. It also is an effort to reduce public oversight in how our agencies are functioning. These recommendations appear to consolidate power within the governor's office, where decisions are made behind closed doors with as little public input as possible and where the only people who have input are the lobbyists and friends of the governor.

Iowa has had a long history of using boards and commissions to advise and guide how our government functions. The state of Iowa benefits from having members of the public serving on the boards and offering their expertise, often without compensation (with the exception of a few boards such as the DOT commission).

Each board and commission that was established by Iowa Code had a purpose. It makes sense to give a thorough review of the board before the public and with input from the public, the community affected by the board's actions, and the government agency. That review has not happened. It is unfortunate that the Boards and Commissions Review Committee is making recommendations without a more thorough analysis of the boards it is seeking to consolidate, reorganize, or eliminate.

Discussion of BOARD-SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS

It is extremely difficult to comment on the board-specific recommendations. Each board is grouped into one of four categories which describe its fate. Two of the categories are easy to understand – "Continue (as is)" and "Eliminate". The other two categories – "Consolidate/Merge" and

“Reorganize/Other Changes” - need much more explanation to understand what the board’s future will be.

I offer comments on the categories used for the fate of each board:

1. Consolidate/Merge – there is no indication of what boards will be merged or consolidated. With each consolidation or merger, there are considerations about how large the merged board will be, how the members will be selected for the merged board and whether the members must meet any criteria in order to serve on the board, how the functions will be merged, and a host of other questions.
2. Reorganize/Other Changes – there is no indication of how any of the boards flagged in this category will be reorganized and what other changes might be made to the purpose of the board.
3. Eliminate - Without question, if a board’s function and purpose has ceased, then there is no reason to continue keeping the board and there is no reason to keep the sections of the Iowa Code that legislate the board’s existence. However, what is missing is a discussion of how the functions of a board will be handled in the future if a board is currently meeting and serving, or if the board’s functional purpose really has ceased.
4. Continue (as is) – I support continuing the boards that have been identified.

We are concerned with the Environmental Protection Commission, which is part of the Department of Natural Resources. The Environmental Protection Commission has had a problem since its creation because there are designated seats on the commission for special interests. That feature needs to be corrected, but it is not clear if that is the plan in this recommendation. This board is flagged for “Reorganization/Other Changes”.

We are also concerned about the State Preserves Advisory Board. The people who sit on this board are experts in biology and wildlife. They are able to provide expert advice to the Department of Natural Resources. This board is flagged for “Consolidate/Merge”. The question is what it is being consolidated with.

Another concern is the Federal Clean Air Act Compliance Advisory Panel, which the review committee has flagged for elimination. In May, 2023, State Auditor Rob Sand’s office issued an audit report of the Department of Natural Resources for the year ended on June 30, 2021. One of its findings was

“(1) Iowa Code Compliance – The Department was not in compliance with the following provisions of the Code of Iowa during the year ended June 30, 2021:

Compliance Advisory Panel – Chapter 455B.150 states the Department shall make appointments to the compliance advisory panel as created pursuant to the federal Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. The panel shall consist of two persons appointed by the governor, four persons appointed by the leadership of the general assembly and the Department Director or Director’s designee.

The Department has not complied with this provision.”

The response from the Department of Natural Resources was

“(a) This section creates the Compliance Advisory Panel and requires that the panel consist of 2 persons appointed by the Governor, 4 persons appointed by the leadership of the General Assembly, and the Department's Director, or designee. These appointments remain unfilled. The Panel has never been fully appointed since the requirements were established in the 1990 federal Clean Air Act amendments. The Department will continue to work with the representatives of the Iowa Waste Reduction Center and representatives of small businesses to address the needs of small businesses until the Panel is fully appointed. The Department will convene the Panel once the panel is fully appointed.”

In other words, the Department of Natural Resources has flagrantly violated state and federal law. The review committee’s response to this lawlessness is to eliminate the board.

There are other boards, including the Natural Resource Commission that is slated for “Reorganization/Other Changes”, which we are engaged with and would need more details before we can comment. The devil is in the details or the good is in the details. Without the details, it is hard to know what to expect.

Discussion of GENERAL FINDINGS & RECOMMENDATIONS

I offer comments on each of the following findings

1. **FINDING 1: Iowa’s administrative state will continue to grow without an effective mechanism to review boards and commissions.** There is no showing by the review committee that the “administrative state” has grown as alleged. This appears to be a right-wing talking point. Properly functioning administrative agencies protect the public. We should make sure they continue to do so.
2. **FINDING 2: The current organization of advisory boards is neither effective nor efficient.** Again the review committee has not shown that its finding has any basis. What proof is there that the current advisory boards are neither effective nor efficient? Before we take away the protection these boards provide, we need some proof that they are not doing their job. If they are not doing their job, then this review committee should make recommendations for changes.
3. **FINDING 3: Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process.** Reducing the number of boards, in and of itself, will not increase public participation in boards and commissions. In fact, it will do just the opposite. At the same time, the agencies and governor’s office should strive to ask a broad-range of Iowans to serve on boards and commissions. It should not always be the same select people who are appointed to serve on boards.
4. **FINDING 4: Part-time boards and commissions are rarely well-positioned to manage the core functions of executive branch agencies.** This finding attempts to justify the desire to consolidate power within the governor’s office, where decisions are made behind closed doors with as little public input as possible and where the only people who have input are the lobbyists and friends of the governor.
5. **FINDING 5: Iowa requires a license or certification for too many occupations, and its standards across all license types are inconsistent, inefficient, and inequal.** The licenses and certifications ensure that workers are qualified to do the work. Nobody wants shoddy electrical work which leads to a house fire. Nobody wants a dental hygienist working on their mouths to have no training and no way to remove an unqualified person from the position. Nobody wants a

neurosurgeon operating on the wrong side of a person's brain. That is why we have licenses and certifications.

I offer comments on each of the following recommendations

1. **RECOMMENDATION 1: Establish an ongoing review process for all boards and commissions, including meaningful enforcement of sunrise and sunset provisions.** Forcing an automatic periodic review of all boards is a waste of taxpayer resources. If a board has outlived its useful function, then it can be removed from the code. Although it appears that this review has not been done for many years, there is no need to put a regular review in the Iowa Code.
2. **RECOMMENDATION 2: Allow more meaningful perspective for public officials by streamlining the structure of advisory boards.** It is not clear what the Boards and Commissions Review Committee has in mind for this recommendation. One can only imagine what this means.
3. **RECOMMENDATION 3: Modernize Iowa's open meetings laws and expand public participation by more easily allowing virtual or hybrid meeting options.** It is not clear what the Boards and Commissions Review Committee has in mind for the recommendation to modernize Iowa's open meetings laws. One can only imagine what this means. It is important to allow virtual and hybrid meeting options.
4. **RECOMMENDATION 4: Allow boards and commissions to convene only as truly needed by removing arbitrary meeting requirements.** It is not clear which boards and commissions are meeting excessively when they have no business. With the on-line meeting tools, it is much easier to meet on a regular basis, with a short agenda, than when all meetings were in-person. Random convening of meetings makes it more difficult for members of the public to be involved in the meetings, know when the meetings are being held, and to stay on top of the issues. Plus, it leads to things not getting done in a timely manner.
5. **RECOMMENDATION 5: Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement.** The law that establishes gender balance was passed because government boards and commissions were mostly comprised of men. Women, who comprise over half of the population were excluded. We currently are not meeting the balance and we clearly do not want to backslide. A diversity of voices makes our decisions and recommendations stronger. Having a seat at the table matters when decisions are being made. Women have traditionally been left off of boards and committees. There is still lots of room to improve and we need to make sure that we do not backslide. The local boards and committees serve as training opportunities for those who are interested in serving in other positions, included elected positions. Serving provides opportunities to meet mentors who can enrich a volunteer's skills and knowledge. That makes our state stronger. This recommendation should not be put into Iowa Code.
6. **RECOMMENDATION 6: Increase engagement on identified critical boards and commissions by compensating members for their "part time" work.** It makes sense to compensate board members by paying for mileage, meals, and hotels if overnight stay is necessary. It does not make sense to hire the board members as part-time staff members. That would defeat the value of citizen participation.
7. **RECOMMENDATION 7: Clarify the budget and rulemaking roles of a part-time board or commission that oversees a full-time executive branch agency.** If there is a board that needs some clarification of duties, it makes sense to makes changes to that board's operation. Again the Review Committee has not justified the basis for the recommendation.



- 8. **RECOMMENDATION 8: Implement clear, consistent, and efficient licensing standards to reduce barriers to entry into the workforce.** The effort should be to protect Iowans and not just offering employment opportunities.

Conclusion

The Boards and Commissions Review Committee has had two public meetings. The first meeting was 15 minutes long and involved a rapid-fire list of assignments of the boards that each 2-person subcommittee would be reviewing, along with a declaration that the subcommittees were not subject to the open meetings law.

The second Boards and Commissions Review Committee was an hour long, but did not go into great detail on its thoughts for the Board-Specific Recommendations. The agenda for the meeting certainly lacked details of what was going to happen at the meeting and the recommendations were not distributed before the meeting. The meeting was announced the day before.

Now, the Boards and Commissions Review Committee is asking for only one public comment period – to be held September 6.

The final report is due the end of September and apparently will not be accompanied with a comment period. Given that the legislature put a hard deadline of September 30 for the final report, I am suggesting that Boards and Commissions Review Committee offer a comment period covering its final report. It can then offer the summary of the public comments as a supplement to its final report. There is absolutely nothing in the authorizing legislation that forbids a supplement.

It appears that this has been an exercise in using an axe when a scalpel is all that is needed.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: requirement for gender balance--Yes!
[REDACTED]

To Boards and Commissions Review Committee:
I support keeping the Commission on the Status on Women. It is important to keep track of progress for women in the economic, social, and culture areas as well as shortcomings that need to be addressed so that women can participate fully as citizens in Iowa. Women still do not comprise half of legislators in the state, or even close to half of CEO's of major businesses.

Also I support having women make up half of the members of boards and commissions. It is a goal of boards in the town or Grinnell and has greatly increased the number of women serving.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Board consolidation
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 10:29:16 CDT
Attachments:

Gov Reynolds already holds more power than any elected governor should....eliminate Kim Reynolds and Iowa will survive! Follow her and Iowa

Will lose more people due to her policies, especially her silence on the incredibly destructive CC pipelines!

Sent from Mail for Windows

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comment re: Recommendations - Iowa Boards and Commissions
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 12:15:33 CDT
Attachments:

As a lifelong resident of the State of Iowa, and one whose career was affected increasingly over time by a number of boards and commission, I would like to applaud the efforts of Governor Reynolds, the Iowa Legislature, and the Iowa Boards and Commissions Committee. I believe that the historic and current situation in which the State finds itself, with hundreds of advisory boards and councils, commissions and boards, is more accidental than intentional.

It seems like every time some problem comes along - real or perceived - the Legislature creates a new board of some kind, which in turn recommends more (possibly unnecessary?) statutes, and, in turn, hundreds if not thousands of pages of regulations. Individually, these situations might not have had a significant impact in terms of costs or investment of human time or talent, but collectively, the taxpayer today funds dozens and dozens of boards and committees, as well as staff time and expense related to their mere existence.

Our state, much like our Federal government, has become bloated with unneeded baggage, in the form of hundreds of such boards, commissions and committees. As a taxpayer, and a concerned citizen, I appreciate what has been proposed, and the only question I have is "has this group gone as far as it might have in reducing the number of committees, or are there political pressures holding them back from maximizing the number of eliminated entities?"

I also would offer my support of some of the other areas covered by Committee Recommendations. Gender balance has been little more than a nightmare for small communities and rural county governments, and it is past time to eliminate it. Modernization of open meetings laws to allow use of today's technologies, as a substitute or adjunct to face-to-face meetings is also badly needed by those same smaller entities, and would almost certainly improve access to public meetings hosted by divisions of state government. Consideration should also be given to development of a website that serves the sole purpose of notifying the public of any and all meetings, public hearings, bid lettings, etc., as well as instructions on how to attend electronically.

And I have one other suggestion to offer, which is, that the Committee add a recommendation to its report, that legislation be adopted which would place sunset clauses on any and all new advisory boards, committees, commissions, or boards created on or after [insert date here, but no later than 07/01/2024?]. Essentially, this would be an expansion of your Recommendation No. 1. The sunset provision should force a close examination of the costs and value of any such entity, with a bias toward elimination. This concept might also be extended to the consolidation or reorganization of any or all of the existing committees, as they all have obviously shown symptoms of being of questionable worth.

Thank you for the opportunity to make these comments. Again, I commend all responsible for what I see as a tremendous step forward in truly modernizing and downsizing our state government.



From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: elimination of gender-balance in the Governor's Boards and Commissions

Dear Members of the Review Committee,

It is with great disbelief that I have read that your committee is recommending to eliminate the requirement for gender-balanced boards and commissions in Iowa. I believe that the fact that we have our first female governor is due in large part to the encouragement of females to consider running for seats because they HAVE a place at the table. With most boards and commissions in gender-balance compliance, it seems absolutely unnecessary to repeal the law. Instead, I believe it will discourage women from running for seats if they are not assured a fair chance of earning one!

If you review the U.S. Census facts, you will find that the percentage of female civilian labor force aged 16 years and over is 62.7% between 2017 and 2021. That perfectly describes my daughter, 2 of my sisters, 3 nieces, 6 of my best friends, multitudes of my neighbors and church friends, and me! Let's not forget to mention the hundreds of female colleagues in the Iowa school district I taught in for 32 years, many of whom are now in leadership positions because of the place available to them at the table! The gender-balance requirement is in no way "arbitrary" as discussed in your meeting on August 29th!

You represent the female constituents of this great state. I want my voice heard at your table so that someone who looks like me can be assured the opportunity of running for boards and commissions. Who knows what amazing woman may be our governor in the future because of her experience on an Iowa Board or Commission?

With great hope in your common sense and representation of my wishes as a 56-year proud Iowan...

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments re: BCRC gender balance recommendation
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 17:26:47 CDT
Attachments: ATT00002.bin
Statement to BCRC 9423.docx

BCRC committee,

Please accept the attached statement for consideration by the BCRC from the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Cedar Falls-Waterloo. Contact [REDACTED] if there are questions or information is needed.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

ATT00002.bin

Last Modified:

Mon Sep 04 17:26:47 CDT 2023

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Statement to BCRC 9423.docx

Last Modified:

Mon Sep 04 17:26:47 CDT 2023

Boards and Commissions Review Committee

We are co-presidents of the American Association of University Women (AAUW) Cedar Falls-Waterloo, an affiliate of the nonpartisan national AAUW. AAUW members work to advance equity for women and girls. AAUW Iowa and AAUW members across the state worked for passage of the gender balance laws. We oppose the committee's August 29 "*Recommendation 5: Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement.*"

We support the gender balance law because the law works, it does not prevent anyone from serving, and the law provides for good government through representation that is reflective of the population.

Iowa led the way among U.S. states when it **required** gender balance on appointed state boards and commissions. Data show that since bipartisan passage in April 1987, Republican and Democrat Iowa governors and state senators have honored the law and maintained gender balance on appointed state boards and commissions.

The 2009 law, also passed with bipartisan support, effectively only recommends gender balance for appointed municipal and county boards and commissions. It contained a provision for "good faith effort" to attain balance, with no accompanying consequences, resulting in weaker compliance. However, as of 2022, an average 61% of county boards and commissions were gender balanced. Of the 67 cities reporting data, 62% said their boards and commissions were gender balanced. This is an improvement over the status in 2009, when fewer than 20% of city and county boards and commissions were gender balanced. (Catt Center, ISU data)

Secondly, claims that the law makes it hard to appoint "the best, most qualified" are not supported by fact and often are meant to imply that women are not as competent or qualified as men. Levels of educational and professional attainment, as well as community engagement of women, disqualify that argument. Some boards and commissions have requirements (e.g. political party, military veteran, specific profession) that applicants must meet while others have none; accordingly, not everyone is "qualified" for appointment. We know of no good reason to eliminate either a requirement or recommendation for gender balance. It's true that sometimes an applicant may need to wait for an opening to arise, but delay is not the same as denial.

If the number of state boards and commissions is decreased by over 100 as proposed, there will be significantly fewer potential state appointees to find, weakening the argument that it's too difficult to fill positions. Fewer appointees would lighten that task.

It's hard for organizations, community groups and even government to find volunteers and leaders willing to give of their time, but it's not impossible. That was true years ago when

gender balance laws were passed and it's true today. We know Iowans are capable of doing hard things, including balancing gender representation.

Lastly, the proposal to eliminate the gender balance law is contrary to good public policy. Tired old arguments that gender balance is a "quota system" and "social engineering" and no longer needed because the "gender imbalance has been corrected" are not persuasive. Just look at the make-up of our Legislature or Congress or corporate suites and you see that is not the case. Government is supposed to work for all the people, not just some. It's beneficial to have provisions that ensure that boards and commissions are diverse and provide for a variety of perspectives, viewpoints, and life experiences. The current gender balance law provides for at least one type of diversity and we should not do away with that.

According to the Governor's June 23 press release, "The Boards and Commissions Review Committee, created in the Governor's alignment bill, is responsible for reviewing the efficiency and effectiveness of all boards, commissions, and other similar entities created in Iowa law and making recommendations for the continuation, elimination, consolidation, or reorganization of those boards and commissions as needed." To propose eliminating Iowa's long-standing and exemplary gender balance law without providing any sort of evidence to support the recommendation is quite a leap as relates to "reviewing efficiency and effectiveness." We're unaware of data presented to the public that the law in any way interferes with the "efficiency and effectiveness" of boards and commissions. In fact, Recommendation 5 can be read to conflict with the committee's "*Finding 3: Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process.*" when it takes away one of the successful avenues for expanded participation. There is not even a tenuous relationship between Recommendation 5 and the committee's other charge of recommending "continuation, elimination, consolidation, or reorganization" of boards and commissions.

We'll conclude with part of a statement Maureen made to the subcommittee for SSB 1037 (repeal gender balance requirements), introduced this past legislative session, but which did not advance. "Laws reflect our values. Ask yourselves, is . . . repealing all gender balance requirements in the public interest and does it build a better and more fair government? Or does it tell half our population that we don't care whether they have a seat at the table?" Don't move Iowa backward—reject and remove Recommendation 5.

Thank you for your consideration of our viewpoint.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Iowa boards and commission's feedback
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 18:04:32 CDT
Attachments:

To the Committee:

This is NOT my Iowa. I am stunned and disheartened by the latest news.

The Iowa GOP leadership would like not only to eliminate and re-organize state agencies, but also to gut most of the boards and commissions that serve as constituent representatives to the public / citizens of Iowa in helping to provide input, leadership and feedback in determining services or needed changes to state policy. And, doing all of this with little input by allowing only 2 minutes per person in a two-hour hearing in early September for input and e-mails from anyone who happened to see a story about it - which is unlikely if one does not subscribe to one of the news outlets that cared to carry the story.

Two of the most egregious recommendations are cutting the Iowa Commission on Volunteers (and reducing the impact of the services that are supported by federal funding of \$14.3M for Americorps and other programs helping Iowans) and the combining of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW - see below), with the other commissions on African American, Latino Affairs, Native American, Asians, Persons with Disabilities, and Deaf Services. It appears that these foci for the State of Iowa will lose all meaning to truly represent the needs facing women and minorities in the State of Iowa. I am astonished and outraged that we're seeing decimation of boards and commissions without a better public explanation of what each has contributed and the roles each has played in helping to provide guidance by citizens for citizens. That tells me that certain majority legislators don't value citizen input, nor do they care about certain constituencies or those who are served by such boards and commissions.

As just one example:

Currently as per Iowa Law, there are only 7 on the ICSW. And, that is quite interesting given that nearly 50% of the population is female and ONLY 7 members are part of this Commission, of which at least 3 or 4 must be males for gender balance as currently required by law. This is from the Human Rights website:

The Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) is made up of seven Governor-appointed commissioners. Like all statewide boards and commissions, the ICSW is balanced for gender and political affiliation.

The ICSW has the following powers and duties (Iowa Code 216A.54):

1. Study the opportunities for and changing needs of the women and girls of this state.
2. Serve as liaison between the office and the public, sharing information and gathering constituency input.
3. Recommend to the board the adoption of rules pursuant to chapter 17A as it deems necessary for the commission and office.
4. Recommend legislative and executive action to the governor and general assembly.
5. Establish advisory committees, work groups, or other coalitions as appropriate.

<https://humanrights.iowa.gov/icsw/commission>

Just as or even more egregious is SF137 which was proposed and supported by the Iowa Senate GOP to eliminate gender-balance on all boards and commissions. That bill is still "alive" on the Senate calendar and likely will be amended to the bill to reduce and re-organize all the boards and commissions. Talk about consolidation of power in one party - this is NOT public service, this is a power-grab to deny others input, feedback, ideas, representation and SERVICE for all lowans. The politics of one party to literally silence another is NOT a democracy. The politics of one party to suggest that WOMEN should not have a Commission for the purposes outlined in Iowa Code despite the fact that women still do not receive equal pay for equal work is outrageous!

Equal Pay Day in 2023 (U.S. Dept of Labor) was a "reminder of systemic inequality faced by women and especially those of color. In the U.S., women who work full-time, year-round, are paid an average of 83.7 percent as much as men, which amounts to a difference of \$10,000 per year. The gaps are even larger for many women of color and women with disabilities."

Do a better job by including a better process to include more time and feedback from lowans!



From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Board Consolidation
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 20:52:33 CDT
Attachments:

Gender balance should be a continuing goal. Speciality Boards are essential to serve the needs of that minority or special needs population. Crime victims won't be helped by the AG's office. They are busy going after the criminals!! I thought the governor was trying to help rural areas that have no OB's available. Midwives need a voice at the state level to help pregnant women in rural areas. We don't need an increase in newborn and pregnancy-related mortality. How will that look Ms Reynolds?

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: September 6th Public Hearing
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 22:31:08 CDT
Attachments:

My name is [REDACTED], representing Americans for Prosperity here in Iowa. I wish to speak during the public hearing on September 6th.

[REDACTED]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Changes to state boards and commissions
Date: Mon Sep 04 2023 23:01:01 CDT
Attachments:

Dear members of the review committee,

I am writing to you with two points of feedback on your recommendations for eliminating and reorganizing commissions.

First, one one specific item, I urge you to retain the requirement for gender balance on state boards and commissions. This requirement has been instrumental in increasing women's participation in government boards, which are often the launching point to further public service. Any review of the gender balance of Iowa's legislature or our boards will show that encouragement in that respect is still sadly needed, and, because the regulation only requires 90 days and a good faith effort, there is little downside to this stipulation.

Additionally, I notice that in many cases, you have proposed sending the work of several specific boards to a higher level board or consolidating boards. All of the work you have proposed being assigned to the Human Rights Commission is an easy example. Unless you are proposing that the surviving boards be substantially larger and able to work with more subcommittees--which would seem to violate the purpose of consolidating them in the first place--a necessary consequence will be that fewer people will be left with more work and, inevitably, will have less time to do it. In other words, many things will get dropped for lack of resources, and you don't know what those will be. If you were a manager or project planner, this is not something that you would do without assessing the workloads of all of the boards involved. I cannot imagine that your commission has the capacity to do that for 250 boards before your recommendations are due, nor will the public have the ability to weigh in on how those changes would impact them. In short, I urge you to give this evaluation the time that it needs for assessment and feedback and not to rush forward with sweeping, poorly understood changes merely to meet a deadline. Doing so would be bad statecraft, just as it would be bad business.

Sincerely,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Re:Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 08:58:25 CDT
Attachments:

To whom it may concern:

I am taking the time this weekend to share with you my feedback regarding the committees' preliminary recommendations regarding reforming the Iowa's boards and commissions.

I am very disappointed in the results of the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee's preliminary recommendations for restructuring. The fact that there is very little time for public input and little to no detail as to why these recommendations were made is tantamount to a fascist type of government. Releasing of the recommendations on August 29, 2023 and having the deadline for comments today by end of day is too short of time period. (Especially over a long Labor Day weekend)

The fact that you name in Finding 3 Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process. Why aren't you with this decision making?
And Recommendation 3 Modernize Iowa's open meetings laws and expand public participation by more easily allowing virtual or hybrid meeting options.
Why are you having only one meeting with a very short notice over a holiday weekend?
This smacks of a government not intending to work for the people.

Here are my recommendations:
Some Boards/commissions that should be retained

- * Local Food and Farm Program Council
- * Conservation Educational Program Board
- * Commercial Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel
- * Federal Clean Air Act Compliance advisory Panel (At least consolidate)
- * Private Pesticide Applicator Peer Review Panel
- * Grain Industry Peer Review Panel
- * Organic Advisory Council
- * Watershed Planning Advisory Council
- * Leopold Center for Sustainable Agriculture Advisory Board
- * Commission on Volunteer Service

*

From a personal perspective my late husband and I have volunteered for Table to Table in Iowa City which provides a much needed service to the residents of our community. Please retain the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board to ensure the continued funding for the more than 20 organizations that rely on AmeriCorps State funding and countless other organizations supported by the commission to meet critical community needs across the state of Iowa.

Please ensure the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service board continues to operate as is. The Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service (aka Volunteer Iowa) is preliminarily recommended for elimination which would create an unintentional and devastating impact on the nonprofit community across the state of Iowa.

Without a commission board, the state of Iowa will not be in compliance with federal statute required to receive its formula AmeriCorps State funding. The programs funded by Volunteer Iowa meet a range of critical community needs including but not limited to afterschool programming, tutoring for reading and math, building low-income housing, responding to local disasters, and providing services to refugees. These programs reach every county in the state.

I understand many of these boards and commissions may need attention or elimination. I am just very disappointed and disturbed about the lack of transparency, the speed in which this is happening and not allowing more time for public input. This is not something that should be done in haste without more input from experts. I did not have enough time to look at all the ramifications of what is being recommended here, and I am sure the majority of the people of Iowa have no idea this is even being considered.

I implore you to slow down and allow for more input.

Sincerely

A large black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: Amy Campbell <amy@ialobby.com>; Craig
Patterson <craig@ialobby.com>; Anderson, Brad
<banderson@aarp.org>
Bcc:
Subject: AARP IA Comments - Boards & Commissions
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 10:51:49 CDT
Attachments: Boards and Commissions Comments - AARP Iowa.pdf
image001.png

Good morning,

Please see attached PDF for comments from the AARP Iowa office as it pertains to the Governor's Boards and Commissions review committee. While we recognize slots are limited, we request the opportunity to share these comments publicly tomorrow. Thank you.

Paige

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename:

Boards and Commissions Comments - AARP Iowa.pdf

Last Modified:

Tue Sep 05 10:51:49 CDT 2023



600 E. Court Ave. Suite 100 | Des Moines, IA 50309
1-866-554-5378 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598
aarp.org/IA | IA@aarp.org | twitter: @aarpiowa
facebook.com/aarpiowa

September 5, 2023

Dear Committee Members,

On behalf of AARP Iowa and the over 300,000 members we represent across the state, please accept these comments in response to the recent action taken by the Governor’s Boards and Commissions Review Committee.

While we recognize the value in creating efficiencies and eliminating unnecessary redundancy within our state government, we would be remiss to not point out a few concerns and questions we have relating to the proposed modifications.

1. With the proposed elimination of the Nursing Home Administrator’s Board, how will the state continue adequate oversight of the licensure and disciplinary process for administrators across the state?
2. The committee recommends a consolidation of the Commission on Aging. Given the reorganization of the Department of Health and Human Services, what will this proposed commission consolidation look like and how will the voice of older Iowans be elevated and uplifted?
3. Given the reorganization of the Iowa Utilities Board and its new home under the Attorney General’s office, we are concerned by the proposal to eliminate the Consumer Advisory Panel and the opportunity it provides outside advocacy groups to engage with current and upcoming utilities issues. How does the committee plan to address this?

Thank you for your time and consideration in addressing these concerns. Please feel free to reach out with any follow up questions.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: image001.png

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 10:51:49 CDT 2023

image001.png for Printed Item

67 (Attachment 2 of 2)

Page 100 of 133

IOWA

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Feedback on subcommittee recommendations of Aug. 29, 2023
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 11:45:16 CDT
Attachments:

I find it strange that a report finding that "Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process" would then recommend eliminating 25 percent of the boards and commissions that offer a chance for the public to participate. It would seem that finding ways to make the work of these commissions more public and more impactful would be a better course.

At a time when state government is taking more and more control away from individuals and communities, it is vital that we ensure greater participation by a broader swath of the population, and boards and commissions offer just such an opportunity. More, not less oversight is needed, and this guarantees the wrong result.

In addition, a public process with the stated goal of improving participation in boards and commissions should not begin with an effort to eliminate these bodies. Have the people involved in these groups been consulted? Have those who rely on the input, feedback and guidance of these groups been consulted? If this is an attempt to broaden awareness and participation, offering just a few days for feedback for such a massive restructuring would call into question the seriousness of such an undertaking.

I would urge the Boards and Commissions Review Committee to revisit its work and look for solutions that better address the real issues. The current proposal feels more like a continuation of efforts by the governor and the legislature to make our government less responsive to the public, less participatory and less open.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: [REDACTED] <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>
<brcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Public Comment: Boards and Commissions Review Committee Preliminary Recommendations
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:01:02 CDT
Attachments:

Thank you, Governor Reynolds and members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee, for exploring ways for our state boards and commissions to be more streamlined, efficient, transparent and cost-efficient for tax payers, and allowing for public input. The Cedar Rapids Metro Economic Alliance and Iowa City Area Business Partnership has prioritized identifying our members to serve on state boards and commissions to highlight the talent and expertise our regional business members possess. As such, we agree with many of the findings and recommendations of the review committee and would like to emphasize a few. We support efforts that allow for more public participation from all areas of the state. Encouraging all avenues of participation, including virtual and hybrid meeting options and compensation for time spent working. We also encourage engaging organizations like Chambers and economic development organizations to help identify experts in their field. Lastly, eliminating barriers to employment and making workforce participation easier in high-demand fields, we strongly support recommendation 8 to implement clear, consistent, and efficient licensing standards to reduce barriers to entry into the workforce.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments on Boards and Commissions
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 13:39:29 CDT
Attachments:

[REDACTED], VP Public Policy, Iowa Association of Business and Industry would like to provide oral comment's tomorrow on the Board and Commission review.

Thank you- [REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments on Preliminary Recommendations
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:22:04 CDT
Attachments:

BCRC Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on your recommendations.

1. I am extremely disappointed in the board-specific recommendations. Mainly because I am unable to ascertain what is actually meant by "Reorganize/Other Changes" or "Consolidate/Merge" as the recommendations provided for several Boards or Commissions. It has left me in the dark and unable to state whether I agree or have issues with your recommendations for Local Workforce Development Boards, one upon which I serve. It is hard to make a comment without knowing the full recommendation and its subsequent impact on our service area.

2. As to the general recommendations, I agree with all except number 5. As a woman who has served on multiple boards - not just state boards - it is my experience that having some sort of gender balance is critical to actually accomplishing anything. Having a near-equal distribution of genders across statewide boards not only sets an example for Iowa's young people, but it forces us to engage people who may not know they are welcome at the table.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments to the Boards & Commissions Review Committee
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:52:31 CDT
Attachments:

My name is [REDACTED] and I am the Co-President of the League of Women Voters of Iowa. I am writing to defend two women's issues - the Iowa Commission of the Status of Women and Gender Balance on Boards and Commissions.

The Commission on the Status of Women works to ensure that women have equal pay, access to child care, are free from sexual harassment, are free from gender-based discrimination, are supported in leadership positions and have access to training opportunities they need to succeed, and much more. The duties and responsibilities of this Commission in the state of Iowa are too great to be under the Human Rights Commission which would serve five other minority groups. The Human Rights Commission could possibly handle these five groups adequately by themselves. Women in Iowa make up more than half of Iowa's population therefore, the Commission on the Status of Women, should remain its own entity in order to carry out the responsibilities that it has been doing since the 1960's.

The Gender Balance requirement for Boards and Commissions should be maintained. Almost all state boards and commissions already comply with this mandate. Current law ensures that no one is left out, especially women. The law only requires 90 days to "apply a good faith effort" to recruit and fill the gender balance requirement. Having diversity on Boards and Commissions has proven to be a public good and increases the legitimacy of these organizations. In addition, studies show that decisions made in diverse groups are more productive than those made in homogenous groups. Diverse groups tend to be more creative decisions as well.

In conclusion, I encourage you to maintain the Commission on the Status of Women as well as the Gender Balance on Boards and Commissions.



From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Oppose mega merger of hundreds of Iowa boards and commissions
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 14:58:07 CDT
Attachments:

I am firmly opposed to the proposed mega merger of hundreds of Iowa boards and commissions which would weaken grassroots input into state services and programs and which would reduce transparency and accountability of state programs and services, including the following commissions:

1. MAINTAIN the current gender balance requirement for state boards and commissions. This measure has made it possible for thousands of women to serve the state of Iowa and provide invaluable expertise, talents and service. Eliminating this provision will return our state to male dominated boards and the perspective of half our citizens.

2. OPPOSE the merger of the Commissions on the status of women, African-Americans, Native Americans, Latinx Americans, Asian & Pacific Islander, disabled, and deaf into the Commission on Human Rights. This merger would dilute the voices of diverse and marginalized communities in the conduct of state government and would suppress the identification of needs and services that would benefit these Iowans and all of us in the long run.

3. MAINTAIN support of the Iowa Commission of Libraries. As a former teacher, library user and citizen concerned about censorship and the freedom to read, I am writing to you today to affirm my support of the Iowa Commission of Libraries as a governing board. The State of Iowa Library as well as its stewardship of state and federal funds which support Open Access, Interlibrary Loan, and Direct State Aid to Iowa libraries now report to the Department of Administrative Services, so a knowledgeable oversight Board will be all the more critical.

The Governor's Commission of Libraries and State of Iowa Library Advisory Councils are citizens, library workers, and educators who strategize, guide, and facilitate the work of public, school, and academic libraries as well as museums. Their collective dedication, experiences, and skills are essential to the good work and impact created by information access throughout the state. As your constituent, I implore you to help us convey the message to the Governor's Boards & Commissions Review Committee that this commission should not only remain as a governing board, but current vacancies should be filled. Without the oversight of the Commission, the work of the State Library has the potential to be one of the least transparent and most political in the country.

The unintended outcomes of removing this important and specified work from active, knowledgeable lowans dedicated to literacy, learning, and intellectual freedom would be detrimental to small and rural libraries, students both traditional and lifelong, as well as lowans who benefit by easily accessing entrepreneurial, recreational, and educational resources.

The importance of the role that libraries play in our community and in educating our children is unquestionable. I ask you to continue to support libraries by supporting their transparent and robust structure of governance.



From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: [REDACTED]
Bcc:
Subject: Remote Testimony on 9/6
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:15:30 CDT
Attachments:

Hi,

I'm the policy director at Pacific Legal Foundation. One of my colleagues who litigates in this space, [REDACTED], would like to provide remote testimony at tomorrow's hearing. If that is possible, could you please send a link and let us know the time limit (I'm assuming you'll want everyone to be brief)? We will also submit written materials.

Best,
[REDACTED]

Get Outlook for iOS

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: My Comments
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 15:30:53 CDT
Attachments: boards and commissions recommendations.docx

Hello,
My schedule has changed and I will not be able to attend tomorrow's meeting in person. My comments on the proposed changes to boards and commissions are attached.

Thank you,
[REDACTED]

Owner:

[REDACTED]

Filename: boards and commissions recommendations.docx

Last Modified: Tue Sep 05 15:30:53 CDT 2023

[REDACTED]
3712 Ashton Drive
Ames, IA 50010

September 5, 2023

To the members of the Boards and Commissions Review Committee:

Thank you for seeking public comment on the state boards and commissions reorganization proposal distributed on August 29, 2023. I wish to comment on two parts of the proposal: the consolidation of several commissions focusing on minoritized communities and the elimination of the gender balance requirement, both of which enhance the representativeness of state government.

First, consolidating the eight independent commissions that monitor and advocate for women, racial and ethnic minorities (Asian and Pacific Islander, Latinos, African Americans, and Native Americans), and persons who are deaf or disabled is short sighted. An umbrella "Human Rights Commission" would have a broad agenda that would not be able to serve these diverse communities well. These populations face different obstacles, exist in varying legal environments, and experience discrimination in very different ways. Thus, they should remain as separate commissions to ensure their continued independence and to ensure that members of these communities have a dedicated voice in state government.

Second, Iowa's Gender Balance Requirement should remain in place. Currently, Iowa is the only state that has a gender balance requirement for its state and local boards and this law works. The Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics has followed compliance with the Gender Balance Law at the local level since 2013. They have found that, as a result, there are more boards and commissions that are gendered balanced over time.

Similarly, researchers in North Carolina have found that Iowa leads the nation in the number of boards and commissions that have women appointed to them, outpacing other states with gender balance recommendations and no mention of gender balance at all. Certainly, if the gender balance law is repealed, Iowa will see smaller numbers of women serving on state and local boards and commissions.

The current compositions of Human Rights committees and the gender balance law both make Iowa government more representative, ensuring that diverse voices are participating in government decision making. Without them, Iowa state government will be both less representative and less welcoming.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Public Hearing on proposal to cut Boards and Commissions
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 16:31:06 CDT
Attachments:

Iowa failed to apply for \$133,000 in much needed federal child care monies because of a lack of staff to file the paperwork by the deadline. With the consolidation of more boards and commissions, it's likely the staff in the various state offices will have a harder time being responsive in a timely manner. Losing the input of hundreds of citizens narrows the range and scope of experience of those making recommendations and/or decisions. It seems this may be one of the goals of state reorganization. How many new staff will need to be hired to manage the work of the current Boards and Commissions? If cost savings is a goal of consolidation, I think we will discover, as the state did with privatizing Medicaid, there are costs that are not all monetary to the citizens who need Medicaid services. Whatever cost savings there were to taxpayers was certainly paid for by the nonprofit agencies serving this population of Iowans.

Kraig Paulsen wonders if gender balance on state boards and commissions still needs to be legislated. I understand there are challenges finding interested and qualified women to serve. The solution is not to drop the requirement for gender equity. The answer is to eliminate the sexism that STILL exists in Iowa government and to promote opportunities for women to learn how to engage in government.

I was director of a displaced homemaker's program in the 1990's that received funding and support from the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women. The fifteen state coordinators of these community college programs knew they could call the Commission on the Status of Women and they would receive a prompt response. The connections the Commission Director had with state agencies and nonprofits in Iowa facilitated communication and reduced duplication of services.

I strongly recommend the Governor's Boards & Commissions Review Committee support the requirement for gender equity on state boards and commissions, and to extend the time period for its recommendations to allow for more citizen input.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Comments on Boards/Commission Reorganization
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 17:07:34 CDT
Attachments:

To the Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

It is unfortunate the structure of this six-member Boards and Commissions Review Committee was broken up into subcommittees of two members each, thereby allowing each subcommittee to meet privately without violating Iowa's open meetings law. In addition, it has proven impossible to find any documentation, resources or rationale the committee used to make recommendations which are impacting about two-thirds of Iowa's 256 boards and commissions. This adds to the lack of clarity and transparency. It was stated recommendations were made based on which boards were effective and serving Iowans.

While public comments can be made, will all comments be made available for review? Posting comments to a generic iowa.gov email account does not provide any way for Iowans to review comments which have been submitted. Also, will remote viewing of the September 6 public meeting be available?

One of the committee's recommendations is to eliminate the Board of Dietetics, and therefore I am guessing also eliminate dietetic licensure. Licensure ensures consumers have access to qualified professionals who demonstrate the knowledge, skill and competency necessary to provide safe and ethical nutrition therapy. This means registered dietitian nutritionists (RDNs) who are food and nutrition experts with a degree from an accredited dietetics program and who have completed a supervised practice requirement, passed a national exam and continue professional development throughout their careers. There are also specialty credentials which many RDNs seek.

Eliminating both the Board of Dietetics and licensure equates to removing a consumer protection safeguard which helps identify, collect, and report harm to the public from unqualified, unscrupulous or incompetent practitioners who may promote themselves as nutritionists without having any knowledge or training in accredited nutrition and dietetics education. I was one of the members of the Iowa Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics (formerly Iowa Dietetic Association) when we lobbied for and were able to gain approval for licensure.

If the Board of Dietetics and dietetic licensure are eliminated, what safety net will be in place to

guard lowans from those claiming to be nutritionists but are in fact unqualified individuals when it comes to providing science based nutrition education, counseling and guidance? Such unqualified guidance or counseling can actually result in harm to lowans. Therefore I believe the Board of Dietetics meets the criteria of effectively serving lowans and should be maintained.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]

--

[Redacted signature]

[Redacted signature]

From: [REDACTED]

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>; [REDACTED]
kollin.crompton@governor.iowa.gov
<kollin.crompton@governor.iowa.gov>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov
<sandy.salmon@legis.iowa.gov>

Cc: record@movillerecord.com
<record@movillerecord.com>; [REDACTED] Bruce Miller
<bmillier@siouxcityjournal.com>; Letters DES-News
<des-lte@registermedia.com>; [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Bcc:

Subject: INCONCEIVABLE

Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 22:30:39 CDT

Attachments:

"INCONCEIVABLE." For those people that have been able to appreciate and enjoy Rob Reiner's direction of "The Princess Bride," Vizzini utters that phrase FIVE times in the movie. TO ME it is INCONCEIVABLE that we have an APPOINTED Iowa Utilities Board that can have in its "hands" the POSSIBLE approval of miles of these RIDICULOUS carbon sequestration projects. To begin, I would like to make a COUPLE of assumptions. Whether they are true or not, they have the "RING" of "COMMON SENSE." The only reason these projects are being considered is for some "dubious tax credits" that were put into the Inflation Reduction Act. All of a sudden "OUT OF IOWA" LARGE CORPORATIONS and USURPERS with DEEP pockets were jumping all over saying "we can RAPE and PILLAGE GOD'S GREEN EARTH IN THE MIDWEST" for our OWN PERSONAL GAIN and INTERESTS! ONE of the assumptions that I am making, THERE IS A GOD and GOD WOULD SAY, WHY would DECENT, HARDWORKING, INTELLIGENT IOWANS want to have a TUNNEL MADE for pipes to go THROUGH THEIR LAND, END UP IN NORTH DAKOTA OR ILLINOIS. NORTH DAKOTA RECENTLY SAID THEY DON'T WANT IT! The COUNTY IN ILLINOIS that ANOTHER carbon capture project was supposed to END UP IN ALSO SAID NO THANKS. We keep hearing STATISTICS that more than HALF of the easements for one project have been procured. I would like to know how many owners of that land ACTUALLY LIVE IN IOWA. I have ALSO read objections from people that OWN LAND in IOWA, LIVE OUTSIDE THE STATE, AND THEY DON'T WANT THESE PROJECTS TO GO FORWARD EITHER. I have read through the recent testimonies being presented to the IUB board of extreme, intense

pressure by land contractors for these companies. How MANY WHO have SIGNED THESE easements actually KNOW how DANGEROUS this supercritical carbon dioxide can be if a RUPTURE WOULD occur in these RIDICULOUS pipes! OUR FIRE AND AMBULANCE VOLUNTEERS IN OUR RURAL COMMUNITIES CAN NOT HANDLE ANY CATASTROPHE. THIS DECISION ALSO INVOLVES LAND WHICH IOWAN STEWARDS have taken care of FOR years, SOME LAND PASSED down from GENERATION TO GENERATION, LAND that FELLOW IOWANS may want to build a RURAL HOME on, LAND that would TRAVERSE near schools, communities, lakes, marshes, streams, wildlife, etc., ALL would be destroyed and irreversible damage DONE to GOD'S GOOD GREEN EARTH by USURPERS.

A BILL to NOT allow eminent domain for these projects ACTUALLY PASSED the IOWA House and was PRESENTED to the IOWA Senate. IOWANS (80%) OF ALL POLITICAL PERSUASIONS DO NOT WANT THESE CARBON PIPELINE PROJECTS TO GO FORWARD. THEY DO NOT WANT EMINENT DOMAIN TO BE USED FOR THESE PROJECTS. THEY DO NOT EVEN WANT THESE PROJECTS! SADLY, THIS WAS NOT EVEN ALLOWED TO MOVE OUT OF A THREE MEMBER SENATE COMMITTEE to be voted on BY THE ENTIRE SENATE TO NOT ALLOW EMINENT DOMAIN FOR THESE PROJECTS! POSSIBLY THERE WERE DUBIOUS REASONS AND IF SO THAT IS AN ABSOLUTE TRAVESTY. And NOW a THREE MEMBER APPOINTED BOARD is SUPPOSED to HAVE THE FINAL APPROVAL ON THESE NON-PUBLIC PRIVATE CARBON SEQUESTRATION PROJECTS. THAT THESE PRIVATE ENTERPRISES WOULD THEN BENEFIT FROM PUBLIC TAX CREDITS IS ABOMINABLE!

I WILL ALSO make an assumption that ethanol is GOOD for Iowans. IT is a RENEWABLE PRODUCT and has various useful by-products such as animal feed. Why not "TWEAK-TWERK" tax credits so INDIVIDUAL ETHANOL PLANTS can use the TREMENDOUS BRAIN POWER they have at each plant, SHARE KNOWLEDGE with other ethanol plants, and harness the carbon dioxide at POINT OF SOURCE. I feel that if IOWANS and ethanol plants in other states had the encouragement of "tax credits that made sense" from our local and federal governments, MUCH can be accomplished. NEW technologies will continue to BE DEVELOPED. LET US FREE the MINDS of our EXTRAORDINARY IOWANS AND OTHERS. As FELLOW Americans we can ACCOMPLISH much.

I have read heart wrenching objections by many who would be AFFECTED by the approval of carbon capture pipelines. AGAIN, THESE PROJECTS MAKE NO GOD- GIVEN COMMON SENSE. The APPROVAL of carbon capture pipelines should be taken out of the Iowa Utilities Board "hands" since this ISN'T FOR PUBLIC GOOD AT ALL . IOWANS DO NOT WANT THESE PROJECTS TO GO FORWARD. THIS IS FOR THE PRIVATE ENRICHMENT OF A FEW AND DOES NOT BENEFIT THE MANY!!!! People that are counting on these jobs could be tasked to RECYCLE GRAIN BINS AND OTHER METAL PRODUCTS THAT ARE NO LONGER USED AT ELEVATORS OR OTHER VENUES IN IOWA. THE RESOURCES ON GOD'S GREEN EARTH ARE FINITE. WE WOULD BE WISE TO BEGIN TO CHERISH AND NURTURE WHAT HAS BEEN AND WAS SO FREELY GIVEN TO US! A BETTER IDEA rather than worrying about IUB's approval, all these hearings, the CONTINUAL waste of taxpayer's money which includes THE TIME AND FUNDS LAND STEWARDS HAVE HAD TO PREPARE TO FIGHT THESE PROJECTS, LET US SUCCINCTLY CANCEL THE WHOLE BOONDOGGLE MESS. LET US RETHINK, READJUST, REORIENT, REEDUCATE, AND REPURPOSE CO2 AT THE POINT OF SOURCE. CO2 COULD BE USED IN THE MEDICAL PROFESSIONS, METAL

INDUSTRIES, CHEMICAL INDUSTRIES, ETC. RESEARCH HAS BEEN DONE TO MANUFACTURE JET FUEL FROM CO2. IT IS EVEN USED IN THE BEVERAGE INDUSTRY! I thank you for your TIME and MAY WE BEGIN to TEND TO A PORTION OF GOD'S GOOD GREEN EARTH HERE IN IOWA BY NOT ALLOWING THESE PROJECTS TO EVEN BE CONSIDERED. PLEASE REMOVE THE DECISION FOR ANY CARBON CAPTURE PROJECTS OUT OF THE IUB'S "HANDS." Even now, God could be judging the people of carbon sequestration projects as to their REAL interests! ARE THESE ACTUALLY GOOD PROJECTS FOR THE IOWA PEOPLE OR MORE TO ENRICH THEMSELVES! IF SO, I wouldn't want to be in their shoes.



From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Request to speak at BCRC meeting on Wednesday, 9/6.
Date: Tue Sep 05 2023 22:59:35 CDT
Attachments:

I respectfully request to address the Committee at the Wednesday meeting.

Thank you,
Senator Herman C. Quirnbach
[REDACTED]
Ex officio Member, Iowa College Student Aid Commission
Ex officio Member, Tobacco Use Prevention & Control Commission

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: meeting minutes
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 01:21:27 CDT
Attachments:

It was not possible for me to understand which specific actions were taken, according to your minutes. For the Board of Psychology, the recommendation is to consolidate/merge.

Consolidate with what? Merge with what?

What are the rationales for each decision? What was the vote of the committee? Which members of the committee voted which way. What documents were reviewed before each vote? Were these documents received by committee members before the hearing? When were they received? What testimony was heard before each vote? When will the record of testimony be released?

Your service to the state of Iowa is appreciated.

Thank you for your assistance.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: The following are my comments for the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review
Committee.
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 07:15:23 CDT
Attachments:

The following are my comments for the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee.

The proposed eliminations and consolidations by the Iowa Boards and Commissions Review Committee are steps backwards for democracy in this state. These proposals will amount to less opportunity for citizen input and most importantly less opportunity for direct participation as members of the various boards and commissions are now threatened.

A thriving democracy demands regular citizen engagement and participation short of being a politician. The many boards and commissions of Iowa today are excellent ways to facilitate that imperative of democracy. The proposals of this committee are assaults to that essential component of a thriving democracy.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Gender Equity for State Boards and Commissions
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 08:32:54 CDT
Attachments:

I strongly oppose eliminating gender equity requirements for state boards and commissions.

Iowa women are capable and knowledgeable and daily contribute to our civic life at every level.

Eliminating gender equity is one more way that Iowa government is telling women that they don't deserve the same rights as men.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

From:

To:

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Cc:

Subject:

[REDACTED]
Boards and Committee Recommendations
[REDACTED]

BCRC Committee,

As a member of the Grundy County Board of Supervisors, I sit on many additional local boards. I appreciate the opportunity to see how the many different organizations function as well as having input on the issues that impact Grundy County residents. In reviewing the list of current boards and committees, it does appear that there are changes that can be made. I would ask that in making these changes that the committee would keep in mind the following suggestions:

1. The state wide boards should be sure to have state wide representation. One area of the state should not dictate how a program is run.
2. Keep the local boards local. There are so many factors that vary from county to county. The people that actually live in those areas know what would work best for their residents. The age groups and financial stability factors of an area play a significant role in how programs need to be run and this can be more effectively handled at a local level.
3. As I look at the list of recommendations now, there are no reasons given for elimination, nor are there any guidelines given for the changes/reorganization/merges that are being suggested. Please let the members of these boards know what is going on, and allow them to have provide some input going forward. Good communication during this process will be key to smooth transitions, not a dictated order after the fact.
4. Listen to the members of boards that object to the changes. They are arguing for the citizens of Iowa that they have been chosen to represent. Don't ignore them when they advise caution to a change. It is much easier to make a change to a board at a later date, than to try to undo and fix damage caused by a change made without insight.
5. I'm sure that it took many years to get all of these boards in place, there should be no reason to "fix" all of them at the same time. Take the time to make sure that the changes made are good and will benefit ALL of the citizens of Iowa.

Thank you very much for the time that you have spent reviewing all of this information. Thank you also for allowing us the opportunity to provide these comments.

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: I oppose some of your recommendations
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 09:34:44 CDT
Attachments:

Dear Boards and Commissions Review Committee,

I am writing to express my opposition to several of your recommendations for eliminating or consolidating state commissions and boards. The more you eliminate or consolidate, the more you limit the public's opportunity to participate in government.

From a news article, I learned that you are consolidating several specific population commissions (African American, Latino, Women, etc.) into one Human Rights Commission. This will limit the number of representative members from each population, as well as make it more difficult to concentrate on population-specific issues and problems. I think it's great to bring all of the board/commission chairs together in a Human Rights Commission for occasional meetings. But merely merging all of them into one is not efficient or fair or effective.

You owe the public specific reasons for why you are proposing each elimination or consolidation.

Why eliminate the Iowa Council on Homelessness? Are there fewer homeless now? (No.) Is another board addressing the issue? (You don't say.)

Why eliminate the Consumer Advisory Panel?

Why eliminate the Local Food and Farm Program Council, the Organic Advisory Council, and the Leopold Center for Sustainable Ag Advisory Board---all ways of addressing not only monoculture-agriculture in Iowa and climate change's effects on farming, but also helping small farmers who are providing food to the people of Iowa?

Why eliminate the Public Policy Research Foundation? Do we not need public policy research any more?

Why eliminate the Watershed Planning Advisory Council? Is our water so clean and cooperation among watershed communities so good that we don't need to address the issue?

Finally, I urge you NOT to remove the gender-balance requirements for boards and commissions. As the legislative hearings revealed, there is a work-around if the requirement cannot be met. The fact that boards and commissions are fairly gender-balanced now is a direct result of the gender-balance requirement---NOT a reason for eliminating the requirement! They got that way by imposing the requirement. Please keep it in place, along

with the exception when it cannot be achieved. It's working.

Please do not further limit the number of members of the public who can participate in government. Their voice is important in the actual decision-making, not just providing public input (although I support increasing online and hybrid meeting options for input). Most importantly, provide specific reasons for each recommendation so the public can better understand the basis for them.

Thank you for your consideration.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Gender Balance repeal
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 10:25:59 CDT
Attachments:

I am the president of the Des Moines Branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW). The Des Moines branch of AAUW supports the gender balance law because it works, does not prevent anyone from serving, and provides for good government through representation that is reflective of the population. We oppose the August 29 recommendation to repeal the gender balance requirement. Iowa led the way among U.S. states when it required gender balance on appointed state boards and commissions, and data shows that since bipartisan passage in 1987, Republican and Democrat Iowa governors and state senators have honored the law and maintained gender balance on appointed state boards and commissions. The 2009 law recommended gender balance for appointed municipal and county boards and commissions, but as of 2022, an average of 61% of county boards and commissions were gender balanced. The proposal to eliminate the gender balance law is contrary to good public policy, as it ensures diversity and representation in the government.

--

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Unnecessary removal
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 10:48:46 CDT
Attachments:

Dear Governor Reynolds,

There is absolutely no reason for the removal of very important boards and commissions. Better funding is a poor excuse. What are you going to do with the estimated \$214 million "saved" after 4 years? There is a reason why we are using that money..

Iowa's water quality is the WORST right now than it's ever been. Why? POOR SOIL HEALTH! Your solution? Just stop funding soil conservation and water quality. Makes sense, doesn't it? ..No! Us lowans are furious. This is stupidity! You cannot take away funding from that. Water is essential to survive. Iowa citizens deserve to have clean water. Don't we grow crops? Isn't that where the majority of our money comes from? You are making so much sense! Let's save money by getting rid of what makes us money! Brilliant!

Iowa citizens also deserve to have access to media and news; ALL Iowa citizens. If there is no one to translate what is being addressed, deaf lowans will not be able to understand what is being said- what is being said to THEM. What's even the point of giving a speech if people can't hear you?

Just because something doesn't affect you, doesn't it mean it won't affect others. Don't make selfish choices. Listen to your people.

[REDACTED]

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Committees and comments
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 12:28:03 CDT
Attachments:

Dear honorable members,

Please ensure that there are clear constitutional restrictions on all boards, commissions, and other similar entities created in Iowa law.

This is needed to preserve the separation of powers (Legislative, Judicial, Executive) from being delegated or combined and give any branch or committee/ board too much power.

Please make sure that none of these non-legislative, typically unelected bodies have any powers or authorities delegated to them that would give them rule making powers.

In any cases where this is deemed absolutely necessary, there need to be clear and solid protections and safe guards against such overreaches. For example, any rule making should be able to be overruled by 40% of either the Iowa Senate, or the House of Representatives.

The Governor should also be able to veto or overrule any action by one of these non elected bodies.

In addition, there must be a mechanism for a rule or decision from one of these bodies to be rapidly challenged to the Supreme Court of Iowa, without the need for someone to break that rule first.

In short, these changes need to strongly support the separation of powers and the non delegation doctrine.

Thank you,

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone

From: [REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fwd: Boards & Commissions Review Committee
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 13:46:39 CDT
Attachments:

I have reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels like the following (not an all-inclusive list of the ones I wish the state to keep)

- * Volunteer Commission - we need to have this to keep our federal funding for Americorps which is critical to our state
- * Nursing Home Administrator's Board - critical with our aging population in Iowa. I am proud of the nursing home care in Iowa (I have had my great grandmother, grandmother, mother and father all be in nursing homes, which is critical to their quality of life). Commission on Homelessness - to be an advocate for people who don't usually have people advocating for them
- * Workforce Development boards which is critical to our economy
- * Utilities Board
- * Consumer Advisory Panel - consumers need a voice
- * Human Rights, with all the laws that are being changed over the last few years, this is critical
- * Aging Commission - our population is aging, and we were ranked as a top place to retire, so this one would hope would grow.
- * Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs & African American & Native American Affairs - these are underrepresented communities in our state and they need a voice
- * Conservation Education - critical for maintaining our land that is a major part of our economy in Iowa
- * Environmental Protection Commission - to protect our resources and our population.
- * Soil Conservation and Water quality - to protect our resources which are not renewable and our economy which utilizes land and water
- * Women - there is still so much to be done to have women and men be equal in so many ways.

When I reviewed the findings - stated in the review committee.

- * Finding 3 - Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process. By eliminating / consolidating - it could have the opposite effect, since

there will be less options for lowans to participate. There are other ways to improve participation without eliminating.

* Finding 5 - which talks about licensing. I am happy there are licenses for occupations. It keeps me and other consumers safe. The license process should be different based off of the occupation, it doesn't mean that there can't be efficiencies that could occur within a specific licensing process, but not to make them all the same.

For the recommendations - I will highlight some of them, with my concerns identified after it.

* Recommendation 4 - allow boards and commissions to convene only as truly needed by removing arbitrary meeting requirements. It is good to have a standard for meetings, so the public can be aware of when to participate and when they can expect work to be done.

* Recommendation 5 - Allow the most qualified lowan to serve on boards and commission by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement. By stating this - ti assumes that qualified candidates can't be found in both genders. Studies have been done to show diversity improves results. It assumes currently when boards are picked the best person isn't identified to be on the board. There is currently a way that if the board can't find qualified candidates and they have done their due diligence that an exception can be made. Based off of the current criteria that is set forth, no need to change.

* Recommendation 8 - Implement clear, consistent, and efficient licensing standards to reduce barriers to entry into the workforce. - I mentioned the reason above in the finding section.

As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all lowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for lowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all lowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

Sincerely,

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature area.

From: [REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov
<bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Govt Board requirements
Date: Wed Sep 06 2023 17:34:35 CDT
Attachments:

Good evening,

I am writing in support of keeping gender equity requirements for government boards in Iowa. I have served on many private and public boards in the past and am currently appointed to the Iowa Economic Development Authority board. At IEDA, and as a state, one of our main issues in Iowa is attracting new residents and workers so we can further economic growth and be competitive in the modern world. Reversing this policy goes against showcasing Iowa as a welcoming and attractive place for new residents.

While I realize it can at times be difficult to find volunteers for boards and committees (I also live in a small town with limited talent), I do think it's imperative that we set an example that women are an important voice at the table. Too often when selecting board members, we look to those we have relationships with and who are similar to us. When boards are mostly male, they typically stay that way (either on purpose or inadvertently), excluding female voices at the table that have a stake in the decisions being made. I have seen this play out many times in my career and in volunteer positions.

Keeping gender equity rules for government boards is important for the following reasons:

1. Diverse Perspectives: Having a balanced representation of genders ensures a wider range of perspectives and experiences are considered in decision-making processes, leading to more comprehensive and effective policies.
2. Fairness and Equality: Gender equity requirements promote fairness and equality, addressing historical gender disparities and creating opportunities for women to participate in leadership roles.
3. Role Model Effect: Increased visibility of women in government leadership can serve as role models, inspiring more women to pursue careers in politics and leadership positions.
4. Improved Decision-Making: Research suggests that diverse boards tend to make better decisions by avoiding groupthink and considering a broader range of viewpoints, which can lead to more innovative solutions.
5. Enhanced Accountability: Gender equity requirements can hold governments accountable for their commitment to gender equality, making it clear that they value diversity and inclusion.
6. Better Policy Outcomes: Boards with gender diversity are more likely to address issues related to gender equality effectively, such as reproductive rights, pay equity, and family-friendly policies.
7. Legal and Ethical Obligations: Many countries have laws and international agreements that require gender equality, making it a legal and ethical obligation for governments to implement such requirements.
8. Reflecting Society: Government boards should reflect the demographics of the population

they serve. Gender equity requirements help align leadership with the diversity of the citizens they represent.

9. Economic Benefits: Gender equity can lead to economic growth by tapping into the full potential of the workforce and fostering entrepreneurship and innovation among women.

Thank you for your time and I am glad to answer any additional questions as requested.

Best regards,

[Redacted]

--

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

The Art of Premium Craft

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Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Reducing committees

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:00 AM

[REDACTED]
To: BCRCComments@iowa.gov

I agree some committees are redundant, especially in social services, but the state of Iowa has already eliminated many committees by underfunding or no funding. Those are the ones that should go since they are misleading Iowa residents in thinking they have something they don't!

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Boards and Commissions Review Committee - Public Comment

1 message

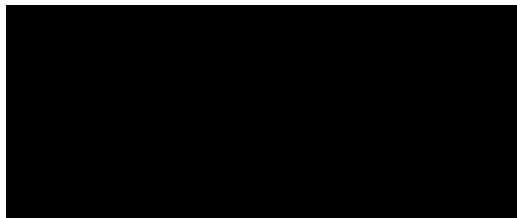
Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 10:38 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Cc: [Redacted]

Please see AFSCME Council 61's comments pertaining to the proposed Boards & Commissions changes.

In Solidarity,



www.afscmecouncil61.org

We Are Your Neighbors!

Sign up now or update your information with MemberLink!



<https://bit.ly/AFSCMESignUp>

The most important word in the language of the working class is "**solidarity**."—*Harry Bridges*



9.6.23 AFSCME Public Comments on State of Iowa Boards Commission proposed changes.pdf

362K

September 6, 2023



Subject: Public Comment – Boards and Commissions Review Committee Recommendations

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to express AFSCME Council 61's strong opposition to the proposed changes and/or elimination to boards and commissions within our communities without adequate public or employee input or consideration. These vital bodies play a crucial role in promoting transparency, accountability, and citizen engagement, and their elimination without due process and employee involvement will be detrimental to our state.

Boards and commissions serve as essential mechanisms for citizens to participate in the decision-making process, ensuring that diverse perspectives are heard and considered. Moreover, they provide a platform for employees, experts, and community members to collaborate, share insights, and contribute to informed policy development.

Eliminating these bodies without seeking input from the dedicated individuals who serve on them, the public, or consulting the employees who are impacted by their decisions disregards the valuable knowledge and expertise they bring to the table. It is essential to recognize that these boards & commissions were established to address specific community needs, and their elimination without careful consideration could lead to unintended consequences.

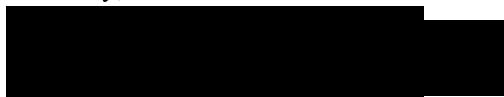
AFSCME Council 61 urges you to reconsider this proposal and take the following steps:

1. Engage with the employees and members of the affected boards and commissions to gather their input and insights regarding the potential impact of change or elimination.
2. Conduct a thorough evaluation of each board or commission's functions, accomplishments, and contributions to the community to determine whether they should be restructured rather than eliminated.
3. Ensure transparency in the decision-making process by allowing public access to discussions, reports, and recommendations related to these changes.
4. Consider alternative approaches, such as merging boards or commissions to streamline operations while preserving their essential functions.
5. Seek public feedback through open forums, hearings, and surveys to gauge community sentiment on this matter.

In summary, we believe it is crucial that we maintain our commitment to open, inclusive, and accountable governance. Eliminating boards and commissions without proper input and consideration would be a disservice to our community and its residents. I strongly encourage you to take a more deliberative approach that includes the voices of those directly impacted by these changes.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I hope you will make the right choice for the benefit of our state.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Boards and Commissions Review Comments

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:48 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

To whom it may concern:

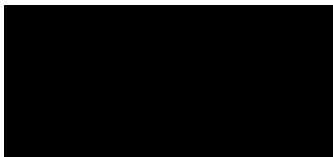
I wish to add my voice to those who are urging caution when it comes to tossing out and merging many board committees and commissions in the name of "reorganizing and streamlining" state government.

Public oversight should be a hallmark of good government. Transparency can be obscured when the number of eyes on the workings of the state is reduced. I'd like to see numbers on how much these boards and commissions actually cost. Compared to the benefits, I believe the cost of retaining most of them is more than justified.

I am especially concerned about the elimination of boards and commissions that deal with our environment. Our water and air quality continue to degrade. We all breathe the air and drink the water! Cleaning up both should be at the top of every agenda. Without these, Iowans' health continues to decline. According to the National Cancer Institute statistics, cancer rates in Iowa have continued to rise unabated since 2013. <https://statecancerprofiles.cancer.gov/historicaltrend/index.php?0&2219&999&7599&001&001&00&0&0&1&0&1&1#results>. The health of Iowans should come before letting farmers, energy producers, industry, or big corporate entities (such as Summit Carbon Solutions) pollute our air and water. Citizen boards will help with this massive enterprise.

I object to rescinding the rule that there be gender balance on boards in the name of "finding the best person." There are always qualified women and men who can maintain this balance. The "best person" argument is a false premise. Please retain the gender balance requirement.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Commission Reorganization

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 4:24 PM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Regarding the consolidation and elimination of state commissions, great care needs to be taken during the process. Commissions should not lead to undue barriers to entry to a position, but they do need to ensure that practitioners are qualified.

I'm particularly concerned about the very vague recommendation that the State Board of Education be reorganized. Specifics are required, with ample time for public review and comment. *Education should never be politicized.*

Also of concern is merging the Commissions on the Status of African Americans, Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs, Deaf Services, Persons with Disabilities, Latino Affairs, Native American Affairs and the Status of Women into the Iowa Human Rights Board. Each group has its own unique needs, and one board would lack the requisite expertise to address all their needs, especially for people who are deaf and have other disabilities. Perhaps one commission that address blindness, deafness, and other disabilities; one commission for women; and one commission for nonwhite ethnic groups, with diverse membership required.

As for gender balance, the *Des Moines Register* reported that barely over 60% for cities and counties have achieved the goal. This is woefully inadequate. That is only about 30 percent of all city and county board members are women—20 percent short of the goal of 50 percent. The requirement should be retained with a proviso such as that if a qualified member of the required gender has not applied for the position within thirty days of the opening begin published as available, then the requirement can be waived.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

The "State Government Realignment Bill"

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 6:10 PM

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Dear BCRC,

I've reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels like the Volunteer Commission (needed to keep federal funds for Americorps), the Child Care Advisory Committee, the Commission on Homelessness, the HAWKI Board (kids' healthcare would get lost in the larger HHS Medicaid shuffle), the Nursing Home Administrator's Board and many others important to Iowa programs are preserved.

As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all lowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for lowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all lowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Fascist Party

1 message

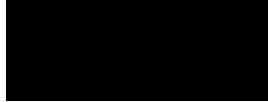
Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 6:39 PM

[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

When Trump lost the President's office it was said that the Republican Party would have to take care of those MAGA people. That seemed good to me as I had known our Robert D. Ray, and found him totally and solidly working for all of Iowa.

It seems that there's no longer a real Republican Party, and all are going totally to the farthest right as possible politics. Governor Reynolds seems dashing madly to become a Fascist. It's truly how a Fascist, Constitutional government works. All of the Constituion will now mean what the Fascist leader says it means.

Can Royalism be far behind?





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

(no subject)

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 6:50 PM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

I've reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels like _ • Athletic Training Board • Volunteer Commission (needed to keep federal funds for Americorps) • Child Care Advisory Committee • Commission on Homelessness • HAWKI Board (kids' healthcare would get lost in the larger HHS Medicaid shuffle) • Nursing Home Administrator's Board are preserved. As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all lowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for lowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all lowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

Sincerely,



Virus-free.www.avg.com



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

NO on proposed elimination of boards and commissions

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 9:27 PM

[REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Greetings,

70 boards/commissions! It's an entirely different matter than reorganizing state administrative departments. These are established ways that the Governor and her administration must listen to public input into public policy.

Mr. Paulsen says the proposals are "worth discussing," but with less than a month before the final report is due, how exceedingly difficult for the public to familiarize ourselves, digest, and speak in order to provide any meaningful input, before the final report is due. What irony.

At the least, please be sure that we do not cut off or reject any further federal funds than our state already has.

Americorps!!! has provided such capital investment into the state.

and others, and I will attempt to give further feedback as I digest the recommendations.

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Concern

1 message

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 9:35 PM


To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

I've reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels like the Volunteer Commission are preserved. I work with many AmeriCorps volunteers and would hate to see Iowa lose this valuable source of funding and labor due to the elimination of this commission.

As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all Iowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for Iowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all Iowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Slow down the process of eliminating so many boards!!

1 message

[REDACTED]

Thu, Sep 7, 2023 at 11:25 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

As voters, we need time to study and process what you are proposing. I am sick of federal funds being misused to send OUR police to the Texas border. Losing federal funds for Americorp and other volunteering boards is not in the best interest of our state

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Changes in Iowa boards

1 message

Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 9:42 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I feel the IUB needs to only make decisions concerning actual public projects. Not decisions for Private Companies, these current private summit companies should be reimbursing the state budget for the IUBs time. Maybe that is also a provision to add.

Be careful to not take away oversight of Nursing Homes and Volunteer groups. It is always good to have a state policy person to use as a reference point.

Thank you.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

State Government Realignment Bill

1 message

Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 10:11 AM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

I've reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels are preserved (specially those that advocate for Iowa families). As important as it is to improve and review our government entities, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all Iowans are taken into account.

Many of these panels improve life for Iowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all Iowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

Grace and Peace,

It is not our differences that divide us. It is our inability to recognize, accept, and celebrate those differences. [And to recognize that we are more alike than we are different]."

— Audre Lorde (*with apologies to Audre*)



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Don't Silence Iowans' Voices - Stop Proposed Cuts

1 message

[Redacted]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Fri, Sep 8, 2023 at 12:16 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Governor Reynolds's proposed cuts and mergers of over 100 state boards and commissions, including the Athletic Training Board, Volunteer Commission, Child Care Advisory Committee, and others.

While I understand the desire for government efficiency, this proposal goes too far and risks eliminating critical oversight and public input on issues that impact Iowans' health, safety, and opportunities to thrive. Many of these boards provide key protections for vulnerable populations, environmental oversight to prevent pollution, and channels for public participation.

Eliminating boards through backdoor committees that skirted open meeting laws without expert or public input is unacceptable. Iowans value transparency and the chance to be heard on issues affecting their lives. Concentrating power in a few hands risks drowning out diverse voices and lived experiences.

I urge you to take a stand against this bill and work to preserve boards and commissions that serve Iowans like me, my family and friends. Please ensure any realignment effort does not reduce access and representation for all. Good governance requires considering the needs of all constituents, not just the powerful few.

I hope I can count on your support to oppose cuts and mergers that would harm Iowans. Please continue to fight for an open, representative government that serves all of us.

Sincerely,

[Redacted Signature]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Valuing

1 message

Sat, Sep 9, 2023 at 1:06 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Governor Reynolds and Others,
I value my health, safety, and opportunities, AND those of my fellow Iowans. For these reasons I request you NOT eliminate the following:

- *Hawki Board
- *Watershed Planning Advisory Board
- *Area Education Agency Advisory Group
- *Leopold Center for Sustainable Ag. Advisory Board
(and Reinstate the ISU Leopold Center for Sustainable Ag. It's desperately needed!)
- *Justice Advisory Board
- *Commission of Libraries
- *State Board of Education (but name a supporter of PUBLIC education as Director)
- *Community College Council
- *Board of Corrections
- *Midwest Energy Commission
- *Federal Clean Air Compliance Advisory Board
- *Conservation Education Program Board
- *Environmental Protection Committee
- *State Banking Council
- *Board of Psychology
- *Pharmacy Board
- *Board of Medicine
- *Civil Rights Commission
- *Health Facilities Council
- *Building Code Advisory Council
- *Historical Records
- *Childcare Advisory Board
- *Volunteer Commission
- *Commission on Homelessness
- *Nursing Home Administrator's Board

Iowans understand that it is important to review Boards, etc. Yet, many, under consideration for removal or combining are vital in providing 'ears' to citizen's plights & concerns; Those I have listed (not to the exclusion of others), are essential to good governance.

Please give consideration to my ask: do not eliminate the above.

Respectfully,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender balance

1 message

Sat, Sep 9, 2023 at 1:32 PM

[REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

As current president of the Tama-Toledo branch of AAUW I want to confirm my support of the lengthy in-depth comments you have already received from our state leadership. It is affirming to see where gender balance has been reached but looking at local boards not directed by the law we easily see male domination continue. This is understandable considering past practices and beliefs and without some raising of awareness and promoting very capable women will not be given a place at the table. Let us continue to practice what works.

[REDACTED]

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Please provide explanations for how board and commission recommendations were arrived at

1 message

[Redacted]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Sun, Sep 10, 2023 at 8:53 AM

BCRC members,

Could you please explain why your report does not have information on how you arrived at recommendations for each decision? How can all of these boards and committees who are in the Consolidate/Merge, Eliminate, or Reorganize categories respond to any concerns you may have had about the committee when you didn't explain what your concerns are?

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender Equity Provision

1 message

[Redacted]

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 2:42 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

"The Davenport-Bettendorf Branch of AAUW is opposed to removing the requirement of gender balance for Boards and Commissions. Iowa has a diverse population and it is important that diverse voices and points of view are included in all boards and commissions."

In the past boards were often all male or all female. This is definitely not a one gender issue, creating a balance and variety of viewpoints on any board brings variety to their conversations and opinions. This leads to more thoughtful answers.

[Redacted]

ADVANCING GENDER EQUITY THROUGH RESEARCH, EDUCATION AND ADVOCACY



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Government reorganization

1 message

[Redacted]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 3:03 PM

While we support the notion of efficient government, we need to ask the definition of "efficient" in this context.

We cannot support depriving citizens of their voices at the state level or failing to meet legitimate needs of people that will most efficiently be met at the state level.

Specifically, we are concerned about such matters as the possible/likely(?) loss of blind people in leadership of the Iowa Commission for the Blind, or diminished funding for groups and individuals who lack the resources to maintain their full functioning as citizens of our state.

Please keep people at the top of your agenda, not dollars. We pay our taxes for the purpose of strengthening the human community within the jurisdictions in which we live.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Vote

1 message

[Redacted]
to: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 3:13 PM

Please refrain from cutting boards and commissions without researching what programs would be affected.

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Boards and Commissions Comments

1 message

Mon, Sep 11, 2023 at 3:31 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Secrecy and Lack of Transparency – Why?

The Boards and Commissions Review Committee was created in Governor Reynolds' plan to reorganize state government. Committee recommendations released August 29, 2023 only listed names of Boards and whether or not they would be continued, reorganized/other changes, consolidated/merged or eliminated. Why was absolutely no detail provided? There were 5 findings and 8 recommendations, none of which included any data, rationale or facts as to how decisions were reached. A search of the committee's web page also provides absolutely no clarity. The meeting agendas and minutes are useless, again no helpful or useful information is provided.

Chairman Paulsen created two member subcommittees allowing each to meet privately without violating Iowa's open meetings law. Why was the open meetings law deliberately avoided? Finding any documentation, resources or rationale used to make recommendations is difficult if not impossible, contributing to secrecy and lack of transparency. Supposedly recommendations were made based on which boards were effectively serving Iowans. Numerous comments made during a September 6 public hearing spoke to the harm, risks to health and safety, and dangers these recommendations would cause if implemented. Apparently subcommittee members spent little time actually gathering facts and data, or talking to members, professionals and practitioners represented by these Boards. I am a retired school foodservice director and the boilers in our pressure steamers had regular inspections in order to ensure proper function. I can only imagine how many of our staff would have been injured or killed if a boiler had exploded. I am also a retired registered licensed dietitian. Eliminating the Board of Dietetics and licensure will jeopardize the health of Iowans by removing a consumer protection safeguard which helps identify, collect, and report harm to the public from unqualified, unscrupulous or incompetent practitioners who may promote themselves as nutritionists without having any knowledge or training in accredited nutrition and dietetics education

Public comments being submitted to an Iowa.gov website is great; however comments don't seem to be publically available; why is that? What is the committee trying to hide? It also appears the public hearing was not recorded. I wonder how Chairman Paulsen and Governor Reynolds can explain and justify all the secrecy and lack of transparency surrounding recommendations which will impact the professions and lives of every Iowan.

Sincerely,

A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of the sender.

--
A solid black rectangular redaction box covering the contact information of the sender.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender balance

1 message

[Redacted]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 8:09 AM

On your work with boards and commissions, please keep the gender requirements in place. This is very important for all the citizens of our state.



Quote from Ben Franklin at the close of the Constitutional Convention....."Well, Doctor, what have we got - a Republic or a Monarchy?"

"A Republic, if you can keep it."



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Iowa boards and commissions

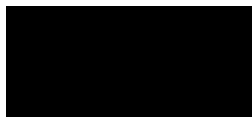
1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 11:11 AM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels are not eliminated just for the sake of looks. As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all lowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for lowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all lowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

I'm concerned about the proposed cuts and mergers. I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Letter Opposing Removal of Gender Balance Provision

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 11:23 AM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

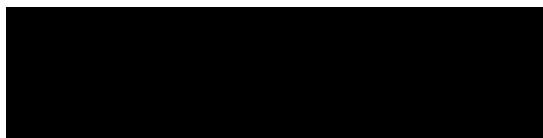
To the Committee

As Co-President of the e-Network Branch of AAUW-Iowa, I oppose the committee's August 29 "Recommendation 5: Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement." We support the gender balance law because the law works, it does not prevent anyone from serving, and the law provides for good government through representation that is reflective of the population. To those who say that our current law calling for gender balanced boards and committees makes it hard to fill such positions, claims that the law makes it hard to appoint "the best, most qualified" are not supported by fact and often are meant to imply that women are not as competent or qualified as men. Levels of educational and professional attainment, as well as community engagement of women, disqualify that argument.

The proposal to eliminate the gender balance law is contrary to good public policy. Tired old arguments that gender balance is a "quota system" and "social engineering" and no longer needed because the "gender imbalance has been corrected" are not persuasive. Just look at the make-up of our Legislature or Congress or corporate suites and you see that is not the case. Government is supposed to work for all the people, not just some. It's beneficial to have provisions that ensure that boards and commissions are diverse and provide for a variety of perspectives, viewpoints, and life experiences. The current gender balance law provides for at least one type of diversity and we should not do away with that.

We appreciate your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender Equity on Commissions

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 1:15 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

How dare Republican leadership in Iowa take such a giant step backwards. Your idea of combining state Boards is going to let incompetent people in positions of authority go undetected. O

You support a ban on abortions. I support that for any Iowa woman - age 10/ 11 through their reproductive years - who thinks an abortion is bad for herself / her family. BUT I do not want Iowa legislators - especially males who never become pregnant - to tell all Iowa women what they as legislators think is right.

Iowa women do NOT want to go back to the years before they could vote. I predict your way of thinking may soon lead to a change in the party in charge.

Ask your wives, daughters, and granddaughters what they think about including women on ALL BOARDS.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Committee on BOards and Committees Feedback

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 2:55 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

To the board/committee to get rid of the boards and committees:

I understand that most of you were either appointed by the Governor or work in her office. Five of the six voting members are men - no qualified women for a couple more of the seats? Given the short timelines and the committee makeup, it's not irrational to think many of these decisions were made before the committee even met, and for that, I am very disappointed. Citizens leave those boards and committees knowing a lot more about state government than they did before they served, and that's a good thing. Not everything is about saving money. After all, for example, there was enough cash in the budget for a long-term commitment to the very expensive ESA program.

There may be a need to eliminate some committees, but until your decision-making committee uses an agreed-upon rubric for decision-making that is public, you will get very little support from the public who I sure hope is paying attention. I would think that public input from a wide variety of people is not seen as a barrier to Iowa's success, but as a way to allow many ideas to flow from the grassroots up to the state government and for the state government to understand more about what citizens are thinking and value. People from both parties have some good ideas. If you asked each committee to evaluate their performance based on criteria, maybe something like these suggestions, some committees would recommend they dissolve and spare you the pain:

1. What are the outcomes you hope to support in your committee/board?
2. Are you seeing measurable movement toward those outcomes that you have implemented or recommended?
3. What have been the problems you have encountered along the way?
4. What do you think will be your future work or do you think your work has been completed?
5. Here are some committees we think it would be logical to merge. We would merge your committee with this committee. What do you think about that? What 3 (1, 2, 4, 5, etc.) things do you want to be sure are tended to in a merged committee?

I suspect you could come up with a better list of questions, but wouldn't it be a good idea to ask the people who do the work what the successes, challenges, and barriers have been?

My guess is some would say they aren't fulfilling the need they once were charged with addressing and would dissolve the committee/board.

Additionally, your findings and recommendations include no rationale and could be much clearer. It would be helpful if you offered examples that clarify the need for the elimination or merging of certain boards and committees. If a committee is to be eliminated, what are the established criteria they failed to meet, what value do they not provide, or are they obsolete? And if so, why? If they will be merged, how will the needs of both committees be met? The idea that you can't find qualified men and women to serve on committees is pretty jaw-dropping and frankly, insulting to Iowans.

Regarding the three subcommittees you formed of two people each, it's unacceptable that you didn't agree to any criteria that were made public before you divided up the list and did your work. Mr. Paulsen said that he contacted people currently serving on committees but he didn't know about the other subcommittees. And if you contacted someone, were you sure to contact those who might not always agree with the party in charge? It's difficult to imagine that three groups went off on their own without common criteria and then reached reasonable decisions.

I think it's difficult to recommend a committee or board to save or eliminate when the process has been so unsatisfactory and opaque.

Thank you for reading this.

Respectfully submitted,







Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Power Grab by Gov. Reynolds harms Iowans

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 4:00 PM

[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

The cuts and mergers of boards are of great concern to me. Boards and commissions serve Iowans and should not be cast aside. For example, HAWKI(Board, Nursing Home Administrators Board, Child Care Advisory Commission, Volunteer Commission are all important.

It is important that you not concentrate power and harm people.

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Stop the madness of tearing us down.

1 message

[Redacted]

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 4:29 PM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Republicans quit destroying what many have built for the benefit of others.
It truly is enough.
Thank you

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

RESTRUCTURING OF PANELS

1 message

Tue, Sep 12, 2023 at 6:57 PM

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

I appreciate your efforts to study the various commissions in the state of Iowa and hope that you can

Reappraise their usefulness.

However a few of the subjects should not be eliminated such as child development, dyslexia, health insurance,

Aging commission

And children's behavioral health.

Other commissions on the long list also seem important.

Be careful when you rework these commissions.

[REDACTED] Harpers Ferry, IA .Allamakee county

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10 Bobbie



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

GovReynolds's power grab

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 8:02 AM

[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

I'm concerned about the Authority the Gov of Iowa seems to be grabbing. She is becoming a Dictator to this State.

She cannot be allowed to cut all these Boards. They are needed for safety and safeguarding Iowans.

I am strongly opposed to her selfish power grab. She is doing nothing for Iowa but making it weaker.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

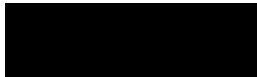
Gender Balance

1 message

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 9:07 AM

████████████████████
Reply-To: ████████████████████
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

The proposal to eliminate the gender balance law is contrary to good public policy. Tired old arguments that gender balance is a “quota system” and “social engineering” and no longer needed because the “gender imbalance has been corrected” are not persuasive. Just look at the make-up of our Legislature or Congress or corporate suites and you see that is not the case. Government is supposed to work for all the people, not just some. It’s beneficial to have provisions that ensure that boards and commissions are diverse and provide for a variety of perspectives, viewpoints, and life experiences. The current gender balance law provides for at least one type of diversity and we should not do away with that.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Please reconsider

1 message

[Redacted]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 12:35 PM

I have been told that you are wanting to delete the clause of even gender on state and community boards. WHY would we want to go back in time when women had no power? our state is going backward, please move it forward.

[Redacted]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Fwd: Governor's realignment bill is a reduction of benefits for those in need- Vote NO

1 message

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 12:48 PM

----- Forwarded message -----

From: [Redacted]
Date: Wed, Sep 13, 2023 at 12:38 PM
Subject: Governor's realignment bill is a reduction of benefits for those in need- Vote NO
To: <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: <mark.costello@legis.iowa.gov>, <David.Sieck@legis.iowa.gov>

Dear Board of comments,
I've reviewed the proposed cuts and mergers and I'm worried about how our state government represents people like me, my friends, and my family. As you look to improve efficiencies, please ensure that boards and panels like healthcare, childcare, VA benefits, housing, and education are preserved. As important as it is to improve and review government, it is just as important to ensure the needs and priorities of all lowans are taken into account. Many of these panels improve life for lowans and address critical issues in our state that would otherwise be lost or ignored. Please work to ensure that this effort does not concentrate power, but ensures all lowans are represented and considered when decisions are made by our state government.

I have Cc'd this to my Representative and State Senator, in hopes that they too, will weigh in and support the needed services that our community depends on to live and thrive.

Respectfully,

[Redacted Signature]

--
Never doubt that
a small group
of committed citizens
can make a difference.
Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.
-- Margaret Mead, anthropologist

(p.s. forwarded because I made a mistake in the email address as I copied it over to this email.

Thank you for your patience with my human-ness and mistake, but the content still counts.

Also, save our food and ag boards too. including education on food and agriculture.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Reorganization

1 message

[Redacted]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 9:13 AM

The cutting, reorganizing, merger is a terrible idea. The IDNR, Department of Education, Conservation Education Program Board are all super important not only to education but the environment in the State of Iowa. We need to support and fund education and our teachers!

We need to fund our environment by supporting REAP! We need to give money for conservation, conservation education, water quality, habitat protection and more!
Otherwise we will be hurting 10, 20, 30 years down the road.

Iowa needs to be the leader in education and environment to other states. Not lagging behind as our students are failed by their government and our environment suffers due to bad political moves!

Make Iowa a state to be proud of again! Show the rest of the country that education and the environment matter!

--





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Bad Idea to Reorganize the Government

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 9:32 AM

To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Reorganization of some of the most important departments in our state is a bad idea! Some of the most important departments will be eliminated or funding cut until they cannot function any longer. The Department of Education and the IDNR need funding not reconstruction. They need to be supported not "reorganized" which we all know means cut and shoved aside. I used to be proud of this state and as of late I'm embarrassed.

REAP plays such an important role for not only habitat but conservation and conservation education in this state. It needs funding! Not defunded! The Conservation Education Board needs support not cut. We owe it to ourselves, our children, grandchildren to leave behind a better state. A state that protects its environment, cleans up its waterways, and strives to provide our students with the best education possible. A state that supports its children and students instead of trying to control them.

How can we say we are such a great state? We have taken away a woman's right to choose. Now we are deciding what books children can read. If the government cares so much about children in the State of Iowa as they claim they would fund free school breakfasts and lunches for all the students along with REAP, the IDNR, and Board of Education.

I have three young daughters and I worry what the future will hold for them if Iowa doesn't change. Start the change by saying no to this reorganization. Protect and fund environment and education in the State of Iowa.

Sincerely,

[Redacted signature]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Sometimes the BEST man for the job is a WOMAN!

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 5:20 PM

WE NEED GENDER EQUALITY: Governor Reynolds' power grabbing government reorganization panel is suggesting getting rid of gender-equity requirements, despite men disproportionately chairing boards & commissions in Iowa. Put Iowans before Gov. Reynolds' power grab!



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender balance

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 5:41 PM

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Hello - I'm writing to offer my strong support for continuing the requirement for gender balance on all boards and commissions.

It is the right thing to do.

I speak as a former member of the State Soil Conservation Committee appointed by Governor Branstad.

All the best,

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Equity

1 message

[Redacted]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 5:47 PM

Put equity by gender before thr governors power grab. Too much of what she proposes will harm lowans.

[Redacted]
Sent from my iPad



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender equality

1 message

[Redacted]

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 5:47 PM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Bring back gender equality on boards and commissions that Kim seems to find unnecessary.
Sent from my iPad



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender Equity

1 message

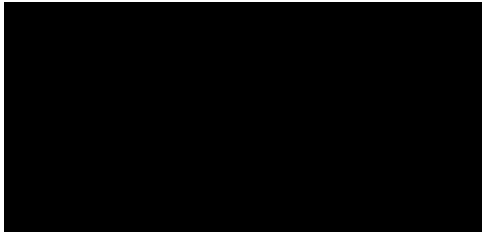
Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 7:01 PM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

To Whom It Concerns:

Women have been treated as second class citizens for millennium. Don't move Iowa backwards again...we have moved too far that way already...when it comes to gender equity on Boards and Commissions in Iowa. Keep gender equity alive and well in Iowa.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender equity on boards and commissions

1 message

[Redacted]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 7:30 PM

I'm writing to support the current rule of gender equity on boards and commissions. I don't understand Governor Reynolds desire to abolish this custom. Women are half the population and should be represented as such.

Thank you,
[Redacted]

Sent from my iPad



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

gender-equity requirements

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 7:49 PM

As an 80-year old man, I strongly support these requirements.

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Oppose Gov. Reynolds actions

1 message

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 8:58 PM

[REDACTED]
To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

I vehemently oppose Governor Reynolds proposal to do away with gender equality requirements. She is clearly pandering to the far right base as the governmental equivalent as a "pick me". She should focus on our declining education ratings, abysmal infrastructure, the significant brain drain from the state, and our skyrocketing property tax rates despite a reduction in amount and quality of services for Iowa.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

REYNOLDS AND HER CLEAR POLICIES OF UNCONSTITUTIONAL LAWS AND POLICIES.

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Thu, Sep 14, 2023 at 8:59 PM

Nothing but further lies do not work. It will catch up you soon enough. You have a growing list of people that are not supporting her any longer. I will do anything I can to let lowans realize what she and her co herts have been pushing through.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Autocracy

1 message

[Redacted]

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:15 AM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Our Governor's zeal for control continues threatening gender equality in Iowa. I could say so much more, but will simply keep it at that. Please open your eyes to what is happening.



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender equality

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 11:40 AM

I join my sisters in urging that gender equality be maintained. **[REDACTED]**

Sent from my U.S.Cellular© Smartphone



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Elimination of Boards

1 message

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 1:16 PM

To: "bcrccomments@iowa.gov" <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Before eliminating boards that represent hundreds if not thousands of lowans by providing them with needed services, let us reduce the salaries of the governor, Lt. governor, and cancel all contracts with out-of-state companies that deal with Iowa government. The governor says by eliminating boards and commissions it will save Iowa in many ways, and government will be streamlined. Cancelling the private education act will also save money. It will also streamline government. Cancelling the bill that requires schools to waste time and money to find out the nicknames of students will also save time and effort and money. In my opinion, the governor is just a part of a cover-up as she wants to eliminate the history of the boards and commissions. Is she trying to cover-up her own mistake? In my opinion, Iowa will lose valuable services that have been benefitting lowans. What does the governor not want us to know?

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

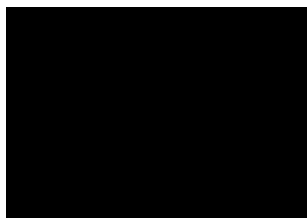
Gender balance on boards and commissions

1 message

[Redacted]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Fri, Sep 15, 2023 at 9:48 PM

It is so important to have gender balance required on boards and commissions in Iowa as an encouragement to women to seek participation and for the inclusion of more diverse input in the work of the boards and commissions. Please do not let women's voices be stilled but insure that they are heard. [Redacted] Des Moines Branch of the American Association of University Women






Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender balance on Iowa boards

1 message

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 3:55 AM

 To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>

Keep the law requiring gender balance on Iowa boards!

The implication that quality is compromised by the requirement is absurd. It reminds me that at one time it was claimed that educating females would be bad for their health, when ALL orchestra members were male, etc. (Blind auditions made them balanced.) Often the perception of who's best qualified is tainted by such unconscious bias.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Re: Please reconsider

1 message

[REDACTED]
To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 4:28 PM

[REDACTED]

> On Sep 13, 2023, at 12:35 PM, Gloria Tollefson <gltollefson@cfu.net> wrote:

>

> I have been told that you are wanting to delete the clause of even gender on state and community boards. WHY would we want to go back in time when women had no power? our state is going backward, please move it forward.

>

> [REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Keep gender balance on boards and commissions

1 message

[REDACTED]

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 5:11 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Please keep gender balance on boards and commissions. It is not difficult to find qualified volunteers to serve. I served a couple of terms on the electrical licensing board after a friend mentioned they were looking for a female member of the public.

I had worked as a telephone technician for 27 years and helped with Qwest's DOL certified apprenticeship program. Although I was not well versed in the electrical code, I was familiar with OSHA regulations that applied to this kind of work and the risks. I had a Master Degree in Business and was also a homeowner. Most of the people on the board were either electricians or electrical contractors. As a member of the public I felt I brought a balancing perspective.

Thank you

[REDACTED]



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Iowa Board Review "Public Input" on Sept. 6, 2023

1 message

Sat, Sep 16, 2023 at 9:37 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

9/16/2023

I believe the Boards & Commissions Review Committee SubCommittee Recommendations need MORE DETAILED INFORMATION regarding reasons for these "recommendations: 88 No changes; 69 eliminate as no longer relevant; 52 consolidate/merge; 47 reorganize."

One 2 hour public session for input is NOT sufficient to know how these changes will negatively impact THOUSANDS Iowans. The process of review based on the opinion of 6 "voting members" without seeking public input is sneaky, underhanded, and unbecoming of Iowa government.

IOWANS deserve better - explain why each of these recommendations were made. Some of the most outrageous include ELIMINATING:

- Iowa Drug Policy Advisory Council ... Iowa is no longer concerned with drug abuse?
- Childcare Training & Development Leadership Council ... Iowa not interested in quality childcare?
- Community Action Agencies ... Iowa not interested to better our towns?
- Dependent Adult Protective Advisory Council... Iowa believes these adults do not deserve protection ?
- Mental Health & Disability Services Standards Advisory Committee, Community Mental Health Centers... Iowa believes mental health current services are "A-OK - no need for improvement." Iowa is, sadly, significantly lacking positive progress in providing Mental Health Services!
- 911 Communications Council ... Iowans don't need 911??????

THIS IS JUST THE TIP OF THE ICEBERG with regard to the absurdity of this whole "review" process! The Aug. 29, 2023 "recommendations" are WRONG! ALL IOWANS deserve to know the reasons for these DRASTIC NEGATIVE proposals. We deserve better from our elected officials - from State Legislators up through all the hierarchies to the Governor's office.

Do your jobs with honesty and respect for Iowans you serve. Openly share the reasons for each of these committees and seek public input in a transparent and truthful manner.

[REDACTED] - Resident of Iowa

Sent from my iPhone



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender Equity

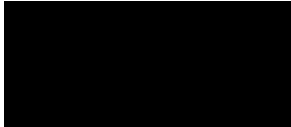
1 message

[Redacted]

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 7:10 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

I am opposed to the proposed removal of gender equity for Iowa's boards and commissions. Iowa was 1st in making this forward thinking decision originally. It seems to be a Real Big Step Backward for the state to rescind this.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Formal comments

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 7:56 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

A VALUED AND VALUABLE GOVERNMENT:

Iowans value: a government that is approachable, available, and accessible by the public; government officials accountable to the public and government; and a government which strives to provide for the health, safety and welfare of its residents.

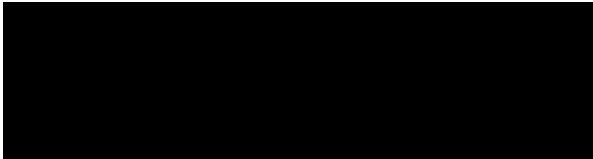
Our Iowa government must honor its role to value health, safety and welfare for all Iowans, and transparency, accountability and accessibility as means to achieve these goals. Iowans need and deserve as much opportunity for input and public participation as possible—Iowans may not need government every hour of every day, but when they do, they want a government they understand and they can access. The recommendations take Iowa into a worse direction.

This Committee (given its Sept. 30 deadline), should adopt the following:

1. Recognize it is important to ensure the needs and priorities of all Iowans are taken into account, while working to improve and review government. In contrast, the current proposal does not ensure needs of Iowans will be met, or better met.
2. To respect Iowa input, the committee should take into account the needs and concerns of involved and impacted Iowans, including specifically seeking input from commission or board members who have recently served. To gather constructive feedback, ask for criticism and commendations on what has value or what needs to be done to increase value. If this delays sending recommendations to the Legislature, or even phases recommendations over the next year, that would be preferable.
3. Instead of unilateral, top down recommendations before us, have agencies work with advisory groups and the public to conduct regular performance audits of their goals and objectives, while routinely asking for public input—not waiting for every 10 years. Agency heads may be accountable to the Governor; agencies are accountable to the public.
4. Independent groups, including stakeholders, should be specifically asked to comment (similar to what responsible agencies do within the administrative rules process).
5. To provide better links to the public, identify some of the entities targeted for erasure or minimization, and ask for changes to give these panels more meaning. Have them review the goals and performance of the affected state agencies. Instead of eliminating oversight groups, ask the groups to submit comments, for example by Dec. 31. Provide for annual reviews.
6. Expand access to public meetings, documents, hearings. Instead of limiting public access, this Committee should take a stand for greater access to agency processes. One valuable and inexpensive means to achieve this is through these very same commissions, boards and councils. Ask the public for recommendations
7. Do not throw out any babies with the bathwater. For example, and this is only one example, Iowa will lose millions of dollars of federal money for federal volunteer programs, if the relevant agency is

dismantled. And most seriously, Iowa communities and individuals will lose the benefit from many programs, like Americorps.

Process and product in a democracy are equally valued. Two hours of public input, plus a single email address is inadequate for agencies which affect the daily lives of hundreds of thousands of Iowans. Something more than anecdotal comments are needed to ensure the needs and priorities of Iowans are taken into account.





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Boards and Commissions reform thoughts

1 message

Taylor, Jeff [LEGIS] <Jeff.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>
To: "BCRCcomments@iowa.gov" <BCRCcomments@iowa.gov>
Cc: "Taylor, Jeff [LEGIS]" <Jeff.Taylor@legis.iowa.gov>

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 10:01 PM

B&C Review Committee:

I like the idea of streamlining state government and making it more efficient, but I have concerns about the wholesale ending of dozens of boards and commissions. I believe a more transparent and cautious approach is needed.

A few specifics:

The state of Iowa cannot eliminate the Midwestern Higher Education Compact because it's a regional organization. Perhaps disaffiliation with MHEC is what the committee has in mind. If so, I'm opposed to that move. I've recently begun to serve as an MHEC alternate commissioner. I've become aware of its utility as a resource as a result of my involvement.

I'm opposed to eliminating the Iowa Commission on Community Action Agencies. As one of my local providers points out: "Community action services reach over 278,000 Iowans each year. Services are funded with local, state and federal dollars. The dollar value of services is over \$277 million. With the impact provided through these agencies, oversight through public involvement makes sense. Perhaps the Family Development & Self-Sufficiency (FaDSS) council's role could be merged with the Commission on Community Action Agencies. A majority of FaDSS service providers are community action agencies. If the commission is eliminated, what entity or entities would provide the oversight and how would that be done? The state of Iowa, Community Action Agencies and almost all of Iowa's business community is being impacted by the lack of qualified and available workers. Staff in the newly reorganized HHS system have much to learn and accomplish as this new service delivery system takes shape. Some community input can help staff and elected officials understand services better." Elimination of the CAA commission seems like a short-sighted move. What community action agencies do for the people of our state is very important and I don't want to see their ability hindered.

I'm opposed to reorganizing the Commission on Libraries. This would cause Iowa to lose "bipartisan engagement, oversight, and transparency of federal/state funds allocation and professional standardization" (in the words of the president of the Iowa Library Association). Among other things, this commission hires the State Librarian and gives input to the person holding that position. I believe it should remain both a governing and advisory body. As a former librarian myself, with a master's degree in the field from the University of Iowa, I have a personal interest in what goes on with libraries. State government has already done more than enough to lower standards and deflate morale of Iowa librarians during the past three years. We don't need to add to it.

I have concerns about the combination of licensure boards for chiropractors, physical therapists, occupational therapists, and massage therapists into one board. Are we sure that the resulting combined board is going to have adequate representation to pass informed judgment on a wide range of different health care providers? Wouldn't the expertise be rather shallow at that point unless you dramatically increase the size of the combined licensure board?

I have concerns about eliminating the Board of Athletic Training. If this board is abolished, is the licensure of athletic trainers going to end? Almost every state requires ATs to be licensed and they serve an important role in keeping student athletes safe and healthy. This seems like a step backward for sports medicine in Iowa.

Explanation and justification, in some detail, ought to be given for each recommendation made by the committee. If this is too much to ask, then the project of reviewing boards and commissions ought to be broken up into more manageable portions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Senator Jeff Taylor
District 2
Sioux Co., Lyon Co., and (northern half)
Plymouth Co.
Education (vice chair), Judiciary, Workforce,

9/18/23, 1:16 PM

State of Iowa Mail - Boards and Commissions reform thoughts

Technology, Appropriations (Ed budget chair)
committees



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Gender Balance on Boards and Commissions

1 message

[Redacted]

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 10:26 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Sept 17, 2023

To Boards and Commissions Review Committee (BCRC):

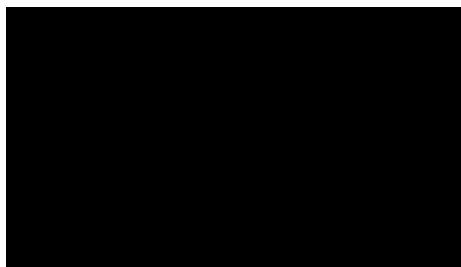
I am a member of AAUW (American Association of University Women), a national, non-partisan organization that works to advance equity for women and girls. I've served as Iowa President 2008-2010 and a Branch President in communities where I've lived: Storm Lake, Sac County, Calhoun County and Ames.

AAUW Iowa and members across the state worked for passage of the gender balance laws of 1987 and 2009. We oppose the committee's August 29 "Recommendation 5: *Allow the most qualified Iowans to serve on boards and commissions by repealing the arbitrary gender-balance requirement.*" This statement implies that women are not as competent or qualified as men although levels of educational and professional attainment, as well as community engagement of women disqualify this argument.

I'm well-aware of and appreciate the past support for gender balance on Iowa boards and commissions that has come from both Democratic and Republican legislators and governors.

Iowa has the best record in the nation for gender equity on state and local boards and commissions, but it has not completely fulfilled its goal. **The gender balance law provides for good government by reflecting the population in its representation. The gender balance law is one of the most successful avenues for expanded public participation in its boards and commissions process.** Let's not go backwards.

Thank you,





Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

SEWARD - 17SEP 2023 Comments on the Boards & Commissions Review

1 message

Sun, Sep 17, 2023 at 10:29 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

Cc: [REDACTED]

“Iowans should submit their feedback on the committee’s preliminary recommendations, helping this committee put together a well-rounded final proposal. Reviewing Iowa’s 256 Boards and Commissions is long overdue, and Iowans now have the chance to weigh in on how their taxpayer dollars should be used to support them,” said Gov. Kim Reynolds.

I am submitting my comments regarding the elimination, merge, reorganization, and restructuring of the listed 250-plus boards, committees and commissions currently existing in the State of Iowa, ostensibly to assist and inform the Governor (and the administration or 'cabinet') and the legislature regarding what might be considered as legislation, administrative rule, or policy.

I would agree with some of the aims laid out on page one of the Review Committee's August 29, 2023 preliminary report.

I would also agree that numerous of the committees or boards have little or no power to affect significant change to anything the Governor, the legislature, or the State bureaucracy have a mind to do.

I would encourage the State to put more emphasis and power into the boards, committees, and commissions that engage primarily with the citizens of the State of Iowa - essentially getting back to listening more to the people closer to any issue contemplated, and much less power to the "experts" located mainly in the bureaucratic offices located closest to the legislature and the governor.

I call for major reforms to return the power to "We The People", and closer attention is paid to the old maxim "the government that governs best, governs least".

More and more over the past 10 years that I have been acutely aware of the workings of government, I have seen the gradual shift from the power of the grassroots, to the power of those in centralized power at the top of Iowa government. It has only accelerated in the years in which the Republicans have enjoyed the 'trifecta' of controlling the Iowa House, the Iowa Senate, and the Office of the Governor.

The overarching lessons from the past show that top-down governing - no matter how well intentioned and executed in the beginning - will soon turn tyrannical to the benefit of those in power and their behind-the-scenes advisors/lobbyists that are convinced that they are the best judge of what is good for all the rest of us. That never turns out well for long.

A good quote attributed to C.S. Lewis is quite apt on this issue: "Of all tyrannies, a tyranny sincerely exercised for the good of its victims may be the most oppressive."

Consider 3 of the 'General Findings' -

FINDING 2: The current organization of advisory boards is neither effective nor efficient.

FINDING 3: Iowa should strive for better public participation in its boards and commissions process.

FINDING 4: Part-time boards and commissions are rarely well-positioned to manage the core functions of executive branch agencies.

My comments on these are mainly that the consideration of what to do, how to do it, and who should have the most input into decisions at the state level, under the present organization of the B&C's (Boards and Commissions), come largely from the bureaucrats point of view. Those experts wielding the power in the central government don't find it effective or efficient (under #2) if they have to listen to the people most affected by their decisions; those in power at the top of the central government want (under #3) want better participation, but it appears to me that they mean more participation with those that will think as they do about the problems we all face, so there isn't open and fair discussion of all sides of an issue - after all, discussion and debating the issues just slows down the bureaucratic process; and (under #4) the aforementioned quote by C.S. Lewis is right at home, because in my experience, the 'part-time' people that make up the B&C's can't be nearly as smart or well-informed as those making their living in Des Moines employed by those executive branch agencies. After all, who knows what is best for them running things than themselves (said with tongue firmly planted in cheek). Certainly can't be those folks living out in the counties that don't do what those employed by executive agencies do for a living.

The best FIRST THING you can do is to follow through on Finding #5 and get the government out of the way of the people.

Follow that by giving the people on those B&C's more power to inform the Governor, Executive-level agencies, and the committees of the Iowa House and Senate, and make the bureaucracy bend to the will of the people most affected, rather than making the people conform to the will of those decision-makers in Des Moines that have never looked them in the eye or met them on their home ground in order to really understand the consequences of their decisions.

This can be better accomplished by REALLY LISTENING to the local elected officials, and by seeking out their counsel long before decisions are made that affect them.

Once government decisions are made by politicians and bureaucrats at the upper levels of central government, they will seldom if ever admit that they have made a mistake - even when in the passage of time it can be shown that things aren't working out the way they intended things to be. Now consider that the only people that can be held easily accountable are local elected officials - certainly not the heads or employees of the Executive-level agencies. They will suffer no consequences for the negative results from the decisions that they make because they are that far removed from the issue, the people and the consequences. But we that are locally elected, and live with them as friends and neighbors, are targets for the next election.

You - Governor Reynolds, your executive level cabinet, the administrative state, and the legislature - need to reconnect with the people, listen to them before and as you plan

or contemplate laws, rules, and regulation, and serve the people with bottom-up governing principles.

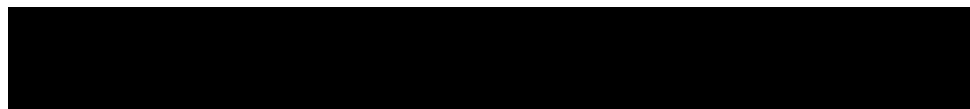
I am in my second term as a member of the Iowa Mental Health and Disabilities Services Commission, appointed by the Governor and approved by the Iowa Senate, and have the experience to go along with that service. It should be noted that the Commission is supposed to report on the condition of MHDS in the state, and recommend improvements to the Governor and Legislature. Recently, the report the State MHDS Commission sent was at odds with several points with a similar report from DHS that evaluated the operations of the MHDS Regions. The most needed changes recommended by the MHDS Commission were not implemented, and I do not recall any of us on the commission being involved with plans or discussions of the major changes that were proposed and made law that affected the operations, delivery of services, nor the funding of services most needed in the different MHDS Regions - a 'one-size-fits-all' solution was made and applied statewide to address 'problems' that were not actually problems in many Regions.

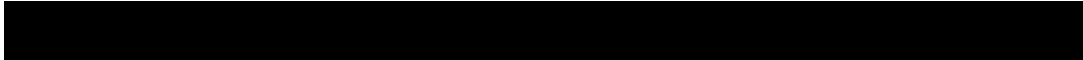
Better use of the part-time, grassroots, boots on the ground local members of these B&C's has to happen.

That will be the best outcome of whatever results from the elimination, restructuring, or merging of the B&C's.

I was elected as a County Supervisor in 2012 and am in my 3rd term; I have served on the County Public Health Board since 2013; I became involved with County Mental Health and Disability Services immediately upon my election, and have served as a Governing Board member, finance committee member, the Vice Chair of the MHDS Region since its inception, and recently the Chair of the MHDS 8-county region, and am now the Chair of the recently merged 13-county MHDS region in SouthEast Iowa; I spent about 6 years on the 8th Judicial District Board of Correctional Services; I spent about 8 years on the Southeast Iowa Crime Commission; I have been active in the Iowa State Association of Counties and the Supervisors affiliate, currently on the Supervisors Executive Board as 1st Vice President; I have been active in the working of the Iowa Republican Party for over 10 years, participating in the County Central Committee, serving as a precinct chair, and on the Platform Committees since 2012, the District Platform Committees since 2012, and the State Platform Committees since 2014, with the exception of 2018 at the State level. I was born and raised in SouthEast Iowa, served honorably in the US Army from 1974-1977, was a volunteer fireman and an EMT for many years, served as a deputy sheriff from 1977-1989, was a Special Agent (general criminal assignments, now known as Major Crimes) for the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation from 1989 through 1992, and again from 1994 until my service related disability retirement in 2007, and from 1992-1994 was employed as an agent for the Colorado Department of Revenue, Division of Gaming, enforcing limited gaming laws in Cripple Creek, Colorado.

Respectfully submitted,





Washington County Board of Supervisors, District 1
Chair, Mental Health Agency of SouthEast Iowa
Vice Chair, Washington County Board of Health
2024 1st Vice President ISAC Supervisors Affiliate
President, ISAC District 5



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Please keep the gender-equity requirements for boards and commissions!

1 message

Mon, Sep 18, 2023 at 2:40 PM

To: bcrccomments@iowa.gov

To Whom It May Concern:

So all people are represented, it is very important that there be gender-equity requirements for boards and commissions. All Iowans need to be represented!

Sincerely,



Comments, BCRC <bcrccomments@iowa.gov>

Transparency is totally lacking

1 message

Tue, Sep 19, 2023 at 3:14 PM

To: BCRCcomments@iowa.gov

To the members of the board,

I am all in favor of eliminating waste and redundancy. However, I am a much bigger proponent of transparency. This entire review process has had NO transparency.

No one can seriously consider that this group is doing their due diligence without documentation of:

- 1) The processes and procedures that were used to develop the recommendations of the board.
- 2) Documentation on the experts that were utilized to develop the list of boards that are being considered for elimination. You can't seriously expect the public to believe this committee is qualified to make determinations on 171 different boards/commissions!! So who was brought in to help the committee make appropriate decisions?
- 3) Documentation on the benefits of eliminating and consolidating the selected boards.
- 4) Documentation on what replacement boards or consolidated boards will do in order to ensure that the functions of the boards that are to be eliminated are effectively addressed going forward.

I am writing to request that this information be provided to the public justifying the list that was provided. Without this information, your recommendations appear to be arbitrary and without merit.

Furthermore, the public is entitled to more input than we have been granted. You represent the people of Iowa - how do you expect us to believe that you are doing that when you do not provide any opportunity to hear our input.

Please advise when this information will be made available to the public and when you will be holding further hearings so that the public can provide their input. Otherwise, this commission is nothing more than a political tool of the governor and her legislature.

A VERY concerned Iowa citizen,

[REDACTED]