



**March 4, 2023**

## **A Hot Issue & A Lighter Note**

### **A Hot Issue**

Funnel week at the Capitol was interesting to say the least. The bills I filed to protect religious liberty and the ancient landmark definition of marriage created quite a stir. Even though the bills did not advance out of committee, some people got pretty worked up. I knew it was a hot issue, but frankly I was a little surprised at *how* hot it got. I estimate that 90% or more of those expressing views of opposition to the bills called me and the cosponsors ugly names, some so vile I simply cannot allow those words to come out of my mouth. Some used equally vile threats.

The actual content of the proposed legislation was grossly misrepresented and it was obvious to me that most of the negative responders had only heard the twisted talking points that were circulated. The content and intent of the proposed legislation did not deny any rights or benefits to same-sex couples, but the emotionally charged nature of this issue made that a very difficult point

to communicate. The bills were really about calling out federal overreach and preserving the historical definition of marriage in the context of Christian faith, practice, and liberty. After all, Christian citizens have rights too.

However, I can pass along at least two accounts of positive dialogue. One person, who had the impression we hated gay people, had a conversation with a friend of mine. My friend explained our position from the Bible and sincerely expressed godly love and care. The conversation ended with hugs and tears! I also had a very reasonable and pleasant conversation with a gay man who respectfully expressed his concerns. Though we did not agree at the end of the conversation, I felt our conversation ended with clearer understanding and mutual respect.

### **On a Lighter Note**

There was a bill that came up in one of my committees that would have required those using kayaks and paddle craft of any size to buy a registration sticker. Currently only such crafts over 13 feet in length are required to buy a sticker. The money raised was supposed to go to improve trails and access points to streams and lakes. I expressed my opinion that it just sounded like more government that we didn't need and others agreed. The bill did not move forward. Though it was a small thing, I feel happy that we prevented another form of taxation, more administrative burden at the county level, and another government imposed headache for thousands of lowans.

With best regards,



Brad Sherman

State Representative for District 91

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*Rights come from God, not government, and the purpose of government is to protect those rights.*

*- from the Declaration of Independence*

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