



State of Iowa
Eighty-fifth General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

The Bottom Line by Senator Michael Breitbach

The 85th General Assembly Convenes *2013 Legislative Session a Starting Point for Iowa*

The 2013 Legislative Session kicked off this week with a lot of pomp and circumstance. Senate Republicans swore in eight new members who will look out for Iowa's best interest, be fiscal watchdogs and help reign in overreaching government.

We heard many speeches outlining priorities and Governor Branstad gave his annual Condition of the State address. The good news is that our state is strong and the Governor outlined his three-point plan to help Iowa grow stronger:

1. Provide property tax relief
2. Make Iowa schools the best in the nation
3. Improve Iowan's quality of life

These three items are a great place to start for Iowa on the road to overall success. It's important to know the road we traveled down in order to know where we're going and Governor Branstad returned fiscal sanity to Iowa's budgeting practices. Our previous governor made across-the-board cuts to the state's budget and bit off more than Democrats could chew by bonding beyond our state's means. Times have changed and Governor Branstad, through sound fiscal leadership, has filled Iowa's coffers and continues to create a state budget that spends less than it takes in and protects our rainy day funds. Like Iowa families, Iowa government has tightened its belt and will continue to live within our means. That sort of responsible leadership is good for all Iowans.

As I said during my campaign, my goal is to make Iowa a leading example of responsible government. We need to run our budget the way that we, as Iowans, run our own. We will not spend more than we take in. We will not create a massive debt that our children and grandchildren will be left to pay off. Selling out future generations is not an option.

With a healthy economy we will be able to pursue the other goals I set out to reach. We must return Iowa to a leading position, nationally and internationally, in education. With great teachers, willing students and supportive parents there is no reason why we cannot lead the world in expanding young minds and creating opportunities for their future.

A piece of legislation that will become very important to Iowans this session will concern a potential increase in our fuel user fee. These fees are constitutionally protected and may only be used to maintain and

construct our roads and bridges. I am interested to hear your opinions. Please send me an email at Michael.Breitbach@legis.iowa.gov with your opinion on the potential bill.



(Tom Buresh, Connie Buresh, Leah Boling, Senator Michael Breitbach, Kathy Schwartzhoff, Marilyn Zweibahmer)

I was able to meet some of the great people from the Mentoring Works program. Leah participates in the program and has benefited greatly from it.

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