

Senator Mark Chelgren

THE STRAIGHT SHOOTER



Forty-first District
Statehouse: (515) 281-3371
819 Hutchinson
Ottumwa, IA 52501
C: (641) 777-7047
mark.chelgren@legis.iowa.gov

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

COMMITTEES
Economic Growth/Rebuild Iowa
Local Government
Veterans Affairs

Administrative Rules Review Committee
Justice System Appropriations Subcommittee

Week 2-

As work gets underway in the Iowa Senate it is becoming apparent that many of last session's issues are beginning to resurface. Proposals banning the use of automated traffic cameras have made headlines around the state this week thanks to Senator Brad Zaun. Statistically red light cameras increase accidents while speed cameras tend to decrease them. I support banning traffic cameras because I believe the issue is more about increasing revenue than about improving public safety. I do not support any issue that increases revenue only to compromise due process and the safety of the public. Legislation proposals have already begun to be submitted banning these cameras in the state of Iowa.

SECTION 1. The militia of this state shall be composed of all able-bodied male citizens, between the ages of eighteen and forty-five years.....

This week I submitted an Amendment to the Iowa Constitution regarding our state's militia. Not only is the Iowa Constitution excluding able-bodied individuals over forty-five years of age, it is directly excluding able-bodied and capable women. The Iowa militia is mostly a ceremonial organization being replaced by the National Guard for most of its duties but we should not continue institutional discrimination if given the opportunity to fix it.

Governor Branstad and the Senate Democrats are already clashing over education funding. The Governor's proposal of 0% allowable growth verses the Senate Democrats proposal of 4% has already caused a debate about how and to what degree we fund the Department of Education. A lack of compromise will waste time and energy. I support 2% allowable growth in education and believe we should follow the law by agreeing before the legal deadline of 30 days after the Governor has submitted his budget. It is important that we establish a baseline for school districts to know what funds they can count on from the state.

Thank you to all that have asked for my support of the 2nd Amendment. It is my privilege and honor to do so.

"I swear to support the Constitutions of the United States of America and the State of Iowa. So help me God."

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