

# THE HAHN REPORT

January 30, 2008

Senator Jim Hahn

## **Senate Republicans Offer Economic Stimulus Package**

*Governor's 'Wait-and-See' Approach not an option*

Continuing their push for an immediate economic stimulus plan, Senate Republicans told the Governor this week that a 'wait-and-see' approach is not an option and asked the Governor to join Senate Republicans in supporting an immediate economic stimulus package.

As the bad news continues to build up regarding Iowa's economy; unemployment increasing in December, Iowa foreclosures rising and personal debt rising above national averages, Iowans are demanding action. Senate Republicans will continue to ask the Governor and Democratic leadership to join with us in providing a state stimulus package.

Senate Republicans advocated for three positions this week that can be done immediately by the Legislature to help Iowans now:

- Exempt the federal rebate checks from state taxes
- An immediate reduction in the state payroll taxes
- Halve the governor's 6% spending increase to 3%

Allowing Iowans to keep more of what they earn and having a legislature that lives within its means are not partisan positions, it is common sense. As any family with common sense knows, when economic times look tough, it's time for a little belt tightening.

The short term stimulus package proposed by Senate Republicans this week is part of a broader economic plan that will be offered by Senate Republicans in the coming weeks.

As we face some uncertain economic times ahead Iowa must be armed with a broad economic plan. Senate Republicans stand ready to work in a bipartisan manner with our Democratic colleagues to help Iowans weather this gathering storm.

## **Senate GOP Unveils Illegal Immigration Plan**

*Failure of Democratic leadership to offer comprehensive plan*

This week Iowa Senate Republicans released recommendations from a 3 member Senate Republican task force regarding illegal immigration.

The only solution from the Democrats is to penalize businesses that employ illegal immigrants. While ensuring businesses follow the letter of the law is important it is a small part of a larger solution.

The Democrats' plan for illegal immigration is nothing more than press conference fodder. It is neither comprehensive nor aggressive in dealing with Iowa's illegal immigration problem.

Senate Republicans have unveiled a plan that calls for:

- Penalizing businesses that do not follow the law
- Cutting off state assistance to illegal immigrants
- Adding state troopers to enforce immigration laws

Our rules for businesses will be reasonable, consistent and enforceable. If businesses follow the rules, they have nothing to fear.

Much of the Senate Republican plan is modeled after laws already passed by the states of Oklahoma and Arizona.

The days of law enforcement catch and release must end and that can only happen if the federal government works with our local law officials. Our federal counterparts have failed to help our local law enforcement and the Senate Republican plan will repair the break of that trust. This will enable a better understanding relationship with our law enforcement and enable them to do their job.

We are a nation and a state that is governed by laws; these laws must be obeyed not when it is simply convenient. Those advocating for illegal immigration will say that it is a positive for our economy and our culture. While we are a nation of immigrants, we are a nation of immigrants that followed the law. This is what defines the argument surrounding illegal immigration; legal immigration is embraced by Americans and Iowans while illegal immigration is shunned.

We must repair Iowans' trust in their elected officials that they will actively pursue a solution to the growing illegal immigration problem.

## **Senate Republicans Unveil Fiscally Responsible Solution to Roadway Needs**

*Republicans take initiative to relieve burden on Iowans*

Senate Republicans unveiled a taxpayer-friendly plan to increase funding for Iowa's roadway system. While the majority of discussion involving this issue has been solely centered on raising fuel taxes or increasing various license fees, the Senate Republican plan will produce a stable line of revenue for our roads without burdening Iowans by raising a single tax or fee.

The Senate Republican proposal would include the following measures:

- Transfer \$90 million from gambling taxes to the Road Use Tax Fund
- Require any remaining General Fund dollars after the reserve accounts are full to go directly to the Road Use Tax Fund
- Decrease the expenditure limitation of the budget from 99% to 98.5% next year and 98% the following year, ensuring there are sufficient dollars flowing from the General Fund to the Road Use Tax Fund on an annual basis
- Change definition of use tax to constitutionally protect funds for roads

Senate Republicans believe the government must be responsible for ensuring the public has safe roadways to travel, but also realizes the solution is not to automatically assume raising taxes is the

only way to solve the problem. Responsible budgeting requires discipline and prioritization. Since safe roads and bridges are a priority, we know we can make it work.

The Senate Republican proposal is fiscally responsible and balances the needs of Iowa's roads and bridges while protecting Iowans from higher taxes and fees. There's never a good time to increase taxes, but with the economy in its fragile condition and tightened family budgets, this is especially not the time to increase costs on Iowans.

**SENATOR JIM HAHN  
MUSCATINE, CEDAR &  
JOHNSON COUNTIES**