



ONE IOWA REPORT

April/May 2007

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www.governor.iowa.gov

Lt. Governor Named Homeland Security Advisor

On February 19, Governor Chet Culver announced his appointment for the state's homeland security advisor – Lt. Governor Patty Judge.

“Since 9/11, Iowans have demanded that their elected officials do all they can on this issue to make their state and nation stronger, and our administration is committed to doing just that,” said the Lt. Governor. “I look forward to working with law enforcement and homeland security officials, communities, and Iowans across the state to give Iowa a safe, secure future.”

Tell us what issues are important to you.

Contact our office at www.governor.iowa.gov or call 515.281.5211.

We look forward to hearing from you!

On the Flip Side...

Culver Makes 180 Appointments to State Boards and Commissions

Culver, Judge Fight for Iowa's Energy Future

A Message from the Culver-Judge Team

Promises Delivered; Promises Kept.

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the “Iowa Report.” This bi-monthly newsletter will keep Iowans informed of the important issues and events that are taking place both here in the Capitol and around the state.

We have had an exciting two months since we took office on January 12th. It's been an honor and privilege to work with the Legislature and sign into law many significant bills that will move our state forward and improve the lives of all Iowans.

Welcome Message continued on next page...



Governor signs Iowa Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative

On February 28, Governor Culver lifted the ban on stem-cell research by signing SF 162 into law.

“Today, thousands of Iowans who have been affected by serious illness and disease now have hope,” said Governor Culver. “Throughout the campaign, I promised Iowans that this administration would do everything in my power to repeal this law, and today, we keep that promise. Now, let us get down to work and give researchers in our state the tools and resources necessary to give all Iowans a brighter, unlimited, and healthier future.”

Governor Culver proposed in his budget \$12.5 million for the construction of a Center for Regenerative Medicine to be housed at the University of Iowa. These dollars would be the first payment in a multi-year commitment to finding cures for illnesses that affect thousands of Iowans.



Thank You!

A special thank you to everyone who worked day and night to restore power to the more than 400,000 Iowans who lost power during the ice and snow storms in February.

Governor Signs Safe Schools Legislation

On March 5, Governor Culver was joined by Lt. Governor Patty Judge at Valley High School in Des Moines to sign the School Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Act.

Safe Schools continued on next page...

Governor Signs

Minimum Wage Bill Into Law

On Thursday, January 25, Governor Chet Culver was joined by Lt. Governor Patty Judge, legislators from both parties, and hundreds of Iowans to sign his first bill, HF 1. This bill increased the minimum wage from



Governor Chet Culver at his first bill signing to increase the minimum wage

\$5.15 to \$7.25 per hour and was one of the key issues during the gubernatorial campaign.

“Throughout the campaign, I met thousands of hard working Iowans who believed that their state had forgotten them,” said Governor Culver during the ceremony. “I assured them that many people under this dome had not forgotten their hard work, and today we prove it. With my signature, more than 250,000 Iowans, 18% of our state's workforce, will receive a pay raise.”

As a result of the minimum wage legislation, more than 250,000 Iowans received an annual wage increase of more than \$4300 annually, and lifted them out of poverty.

Tell Us Your Thoughts On...

With summer approaching, tell us your favorite Iowa place to visit on vacation and why?

Visit www.governor.iowa.gov/oneiowareport to tell us, and we will publish some of your responses in the next issue of the One Iowa Report.

Governor Culver Signs Life-Saving Tobacco-Tax Increase

On March 15th, Governor Chet Culver was joined by health advocates, medical professionals, legislators, and Iowans dedicated to improving health to sign SF 128 – an increase in the tobacco tax by \$1/pack.

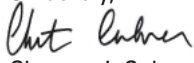
Cigarette Tax continued on next page...

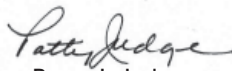
Welcome Message Continued...

It was an exciting day when we signed our first bill, an increase in the minimum wage. Since that time, we have worked with legislators of both parties to pass several other important pieces of legislation, including the Stem Cell Research and Cures Initiative, the Safe Schools Law and the life-saving increase in the tobacco tax that will provide funding for smoking cessation programs and increased access to health care for Iowa's children.

We'd like to thank the people of Iowa for giving us the opportunity to move our legislative agenda forward. We ask that you continue to provide input and guidance on ways to make Iowa an even better state to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,


Chester J. Culver
Governor


Patty J. Judge
Lt. Governor

Safe Schools

"The School Anti-Bullying and Anti-Harassment Act creates a new boundary in Iowa classrooms, hallways, and cafeterias. This bill makes it clear Iowans are committed to providing protection against intolerance in every Iowa school," said Governor Culver. "Now that we have the policy, we must all work together to give our educators and administrators the training and tools necessary to eliminate bullying in our schools forever."



SF 61 establishes a state policy that school employees, volunteers, and students in Iowa schools shall not engage in harassing or bullying behavior.



Governor Culver signs bill increasing the state cigarette tax by \$1

Governor Culver Signs Life-Saving Tobacco-Tax Increase

"I want to thank those who made this day possible - the 92 legislators from both sides of the aisle who voted in favor of this legislation. You have proven that this issue cuts deeper than party affiliation," said the Governor. "We will now be in a position to prevent the deaths of nearly 20,000 Iowans, help 20,000 people quit smoking and prevent nearly 40,000 younger Iowans from taking that first puff that could lead to a lifetime of addiction and health problems."

The historic legislation upon enactment, and almost immediately telephone calls to Quitline Iowa jumped, indicating Iowans who smoke are doing what they can to quit.

Culver Makes 180 Appointments to State Boards and Commissions – Continues Search for Iowans Willing to Serve

On March 15, Governor Culver made 180 appointments to boards and commissions, including four new appointments to the Iowa Board of Regents. The appointments were made to 81 separate boards and commission and must be confirmed by the Iowa Senate within 30 days. Among the Governor's appointments were four new appointees to the Board of Regents - Bonnie Campbell, Jack Evans, Craig Lang and David Miles.

There are still many boards and commissions in need of qualified members. If you would like to serve your state, please visit www.governor.iowa.gov/administration/boards to fill out an application.



Governor Culver with Board of Regent appointees Bonnie Campbell, Jack Evans, Craig Lang and David Miles

Culver, Judge Fight for Iowa's Energy Future

On Wednesday, March 14, Governor Culver met with business leaders in Osage, Iowa, a community that is on the cutting edge of renewable energy technology. Meeting at Fox River Mills, a textile company that makes products from corn fiber, the Governor discussed the **Iowa Power Fund**, a \$100 million investment in renewable energy technology that is designed to grow Iowa's community and secure Iowa's energy future.



Governor Culver meets with business leaders in Osage to discuss the future of renewable energy in Iowa

"The projects here in Mitchell County are examples of what should be done throughout the state, and throughout the country," said Governor Culver at the roundtable. "These are perfect examples of how the **Power Fund** could be used to promote the next generation of renewable energy. I am thrilled to be sitting around a table with innovative leaders in this area to discuss how we should move forward."

Lt. Governor Judge has also played an active role in advocating for the **Iowa Power Fund**.

"If Iowa is to grow, if Iowa is to be strong, if Iowa is to succeed, we need this legislation now" said the Lt. Governor. "I ask all of you to join with us and urge your legislators to take up this important issue and pass the Iowa Power Fund. Let us create a brighter, stronger future for Iowa."