

ONE IOWA ACTION'S

2023 LEGISLATIVE SCORECARD



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ABOUT THIS SCORECARD



The 2023 Iowa Legislative Session was the worst session for LGBTQ rights in recent memory. With over thirty one different anti-LGBTQ bills proposed and four passed, it can be a difficult task to keep track of all of them. This scorecard aims to compile the key votes that legislators took during the 2023 session regarding LGBTQ rights. While we know that no scorecard can ever cover the true complexity of legislator's principles or actions toward LGBTQ Iowans, we believe that this compilation of votes gives a good general overview of legislative positions toward the LGBTQ community.

THE SCORING SYSTEM

We have identified seven key votes in the Iowa House and five key votes in the Iowa Senate as the most important votes taken this year. For each vote we have analyzed them so that you can quickly see if their vote aligns with One Iowa Action's position rather than trying to figure out which they should've voted for and which they should've voted against. Below is an explanation of the legislation and whether the vote receives a (+) for voting for LGBTQ equality, a (-) for voting against it, or an (A) for an absence. Note that absences are not counted for or against a legislator's score. The scores are calculated by taking the total number of votes in favor of One Iowa Action's positions and then dividing by the total number of votes the legislator has taken excluding their absences.

Priority Vote #1

HF 68: School Vouchers

Bill Explanation

- This bill funnels hundreds of millions of dollars in public education funds to private institutions which are unaccountable to their communities or to the taxpayers. Private institutions do not have to follow the same civil rights laws as public ones.
- When One Iowa Action studied Iowa's private school policies, we found that 75% of these institutions either explicitly or implicitly discriminate against LGBTQ students, staff, or family members.
- A vote against this bill will grant a (+) while a vote in favor will mean a (-)

Priority Vote #2

SF 482: School Bathroom Bill

Bill Explanation

- This bill prohibits transgender students from using the restrooms that match their gender identities while at school, creating confusing and safety issues for all students.
- Iowa students had been able to use the restrooms corresponding with their gender identities since 2007. In the 13 year period between the previous policy and the new one, there was not a single incident of a transgender student using a restroom inappropriately nor of anyone pretending to be transgender to gain inappropriate access to a private space.
- A vote against this bill will grant a (+) while a vote in favor will mean a (-)

Priority Vote #3

SF 486: Governor's Discrimination in Education Bill

Bill Explanation

- This bill is a compilation of all the worst anti-LGBTQ education bills introduced in 2023. Among many different provisions it contains the following:
 - Bans all discussion of LGBTQ people and identities in grades K-6
 - Requires forcible outing of transgender students to their parents if they confide in trusted school staff
 - Removes information about HPV and HIV from required curricula
 - Bans all books that contain any descriptions of sex in any school setting K-12 including libraries
 - Creates a "parents bill of rights" that explicitly doesn't apply to parents of trans kids who need gender affirming care
- A vote against this bill will grant a (+) while a vote in favor will mean a (-)

Priority Vote #4

SF 538: Gender Affirming Care Ban for Minors

Bill Explanation

- This bill prevents medically necessary care for transgender young people which has been evaluated as safe and effective by [every major American medical association](#).
- The bill was opposed by the Iowa chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Iowa Medical Society, Iowa Mental Health Counselors Association, Iowa Psychological Association, Iowa Nurses Association, Iowa Public Health Association, and many [additional medical organizations](#). No medical organizations registered in favor of the bill, only social conservative advocacy organizations.
- A vote against this bill will grant a (+) while a vote in favor will mean a (-)

Priority Vote #5

SF 538: Gender Affirming Care Ban for Minors (Amendment)

Bill Explanation

- This vote relates to an amendment that was proposed to the gender affirming care ban by a group of moderate Republicans
- The amendment would've allowed trans youth to undergo gender affirming care with their parent's consent. While we obviously would prefer that the legislature leave medical decisions to medical experts following the currently available evidence, this amendment was vastly preferable to the bill as written.
- A vote for this amendment will grant a (+) while a vote against it will mean a (-)
- Note that a vote on this amendment was not taken in the Senate. Accordingly, Senators will not be scored on this.

Priority Vote #6

HF 159: LGBTQ Panic Defense Ban

Bill Explanation

- This bill would have banned the discriminatory legal tactic known as the LGBTQ panic defense which seeks to excuse a murder or assault simply because the victim was LGBTQ
- A vote for this bill will grant a (+) while a vote against it will mean a (-)
- Note that a vote on this bill was not taken in the Senate and therefore the bill did not pass the legislature. Accordingly, Senators will not be scored on this.

Priority Vote #7

HF 602: Suicide Hotline on Student ID Cards

Bill Explanation

- This bill would create a requirement to print the suicide hotline on any student ID cards issued by Iowa public schools in grades K-12. This gives students easy access to a potentially life saving resource.
- A vote for this bill will grant a (+) while a vote against it will mean a (-)

Selected Votes: Iowa House of Representatives

Representative	Party	District	County	Score	HF 68	SF 482	SF 496	SF 538	SF 538A	HF 159	HF 602
Abdul-Samad	D	34	Polk	100%	+	A	+	A	A	A	+
Amos Jr.	D	62	Black Hawk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Andrews	R	43	Polk	17%	-	-	-	-	-	A	+
Baeth	D	36	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bagniewski	D	35	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Bergan	R	63	Winneshiek	86%	+	-	+	+	+	+	+
Best	R	11	Carroll	43%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+
Bloomingtondale	R	60	Worth	43%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+
Boden	R	21	Warren	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Bossman	R	14	Woodbury	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Bradley	R	66	Jones	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Brown-Powers	D	61	Black Hawk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Buck	D	41	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Cahill	D	52	Marshall	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Carlson	R	13	Monona	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Cisneros	R	96	Muscatine	14%	-	-	-	-	-	-	+
Collins	R	95	Des Moines	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Cooling	D	77	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Croken	D	97	Scott	100%	+	+	A	+	+	+	+
Determann	R	69	Clinton	33%	-	-	-	-	A	+	+
Deyoe	R	51	Story	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Dieken	R	5	O'Brien	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Dunwell	R	38	Jasper	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Ehlert	D	79	Linn	100%	+	+	A	+	+	+	+
Fisher	R	53	Tama	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Forbes	D	44	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Fry	R	24	Clarke	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Gaines	D	33	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	A	A
Gehlbach	R	46	Dallas	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Gerhold	R	84	Benton	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Gjerde	D	74	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Golding	R	83	Linn	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Graber	R	100	Lee	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Grassley	R	57	Butler	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Gustafson	R	22	Warren	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Gustoff	R	40	Polk	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Harris	R	26	Appanoose	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Hayes	R	88	Mahaska	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Henderson	R	2	Woodbury	17%	-	-	-	-	-	+	A
Holt	R	12	Crawford	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Hora	R	92	Washington	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Ingels	R	68	Fayette	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Isenhart	D	72	Dubuque	100%	+	+	+	+	+	A	+
Jacoby	D	86	Johnson	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
James	D	71	Dubuque	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Jeneary	R	3	Plymouth	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Johnson	R	67	Buchanan	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Jones	R	6	Clay	86%	-	+	+	+	+	+	+
Judge	D	27	Dallas	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kaufmann	R	82	Cedar	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+

Selected Votes: Iowa House of Representatives

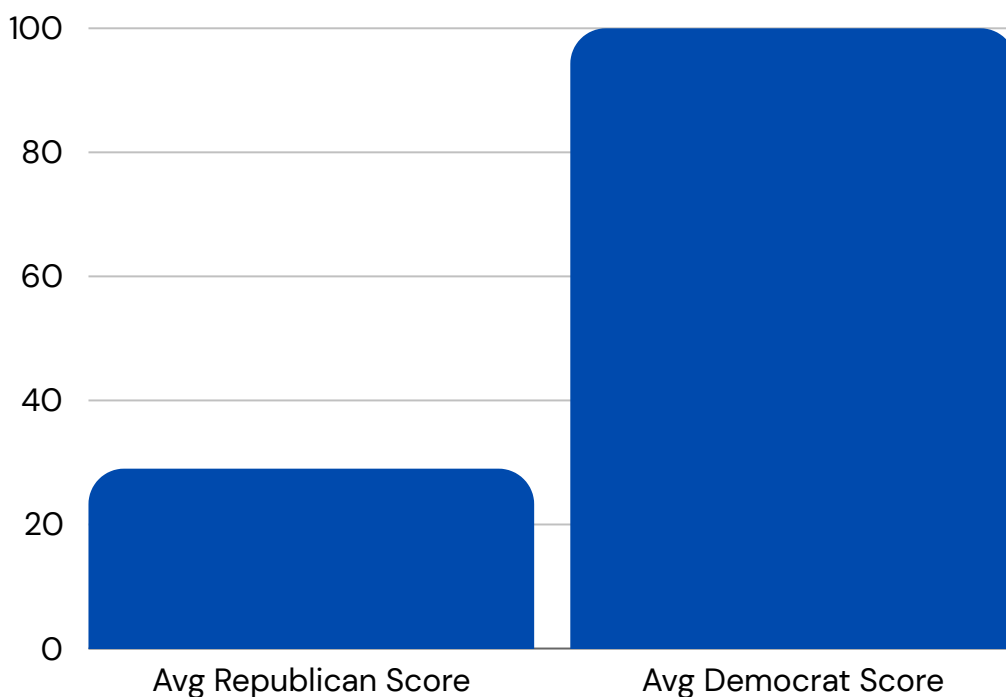
Representative	Party	District	County	Score	HF 68	SF 482	SF 496	SF 538	SF 538A	HF 159	HF 602
Kniff McCulla	R	37	Marion	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Konfrst	D	32	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kressig	D	75	Black Hawk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Kurth	D	98	Scott	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Latham	R	55	Franklin	43%	-	-	-	+	-	+	+
Levin	D	89	Johnson	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Lohse	R	45	Polk	86%	+	+	-	+	+	+	+
Lundgren	R	65	Dubuque	33%	-	-	-	-	A	+	+
Madison	D	31	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Matson	D	42	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Meggers	R	54	Grundy	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Meyer, A.	R	8	Webster	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Meyer, B.	D	29	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Mohr	R	93	Scott	50%	+	A	-	-	-	+	+
Mommsen	R	70	Clinton	33%	-	-	-	-	A	+	+
Moore	R	18	Cass	43%	+	-	-	-	-	+	+
Nielsen	D	85	Johnson	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Nordman	R	47	Guthrie	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Olson	D	39	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Osmundson	R	64	Clayton	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Rinker	R	99	Des Moines	33%	-	A	-	-	-	+	+
Scheetz	D	78	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Scholten	D	1	Woodbury	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	A
Sexton	R	7	Calhoun	20%	-	-	A	-	-	+	A
Sherman	R	91	Iowa	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
ShIPLEY	R	87	Van Buren	0%	-	-	-	-	-	A	-
Sieck	R	16	Mills	40%	+	-	A	-	-	A	+
Siegrist	R	19	Pottawattamie	60%	+	-	-	A	A	+	+
Sorensen	R	23	Adair	43%	-	-	-	-	+	+	+
Srinivas	D	30	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Staed	D	80	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Steckman	D	59	Cerro Gordo	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Stoltenberg	R	81	Scott	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Stone	R	9	Winnebago	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Thompson, M.	R	56	Wright	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Thompson, P.	R	48	Boone	43%	-	+	-	-	-	+	+
Thomson	R	58	Floyd	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Turek	D	20	Pottawattamie	100%	+	+	+	A	A	+	+
Vondran	R	94	Scott	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Wessel-Kroeschell	D	49	Story	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Wheeler	R	4	Sioux	17%	-	-	-	-	-	+	A
Wilburn	D	50	Story	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+
Wills	R	10	Dickinson	33%	-	-	A	-	-	+	+
Wilson	D	73	Linn	100%	+	A	+	+	+	+	+
Wilz	R	25	Wapello	71%	-	+	+	+	-	+	+
Windschitl	R	15	Harrison	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Wood	R	17	Taylor	33%	-	-	-	-	A	+	+
Wulf	R	76	Black Hawk	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Young	R	28	Dallas	29%	-	-	-	-	-	+	+
Zabner	D	90	Johnson	100%	+	+	+	+	+	+	+

Selected Votes: Iowa Senate

Senator	Party	District	County	Score	HF 68	SF 482	SF 496	SF 538	HF 602
Alons	R	7	Woodbury	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Bennett	D	39	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Bisignano	D	15	Polk	100%	A	+	+	+	+
Boulton	D	20	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Bousselot	R	21	Polk	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Brown	R	30	Mitchell	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Celsi	D	16	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Costello	R	8	Mills	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Cournoyer	R	35	Scott	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Dawson	R	10	Pottawattamie	20%	-	-	-	-	+
De Witt	R	1	Woodbury	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Dickey	R	44	Jefferson	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Donahue	D	37	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Dotzler	D	31	Black Hawk	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Driscoll	R	46	Iowa	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Edler	R	26	Marshall	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Evans	R	3	Cherokee	40%	+	-	-	-	+
Garrett	R	11	Warren	33%	-	A	-	A	+
Giddens	D	38	Black Hawk	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Green	R	24	Boone	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Gruenhagen	R	41	Scott	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Guth	R	28	Hancock	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Jochum	D	36	Dubuque	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Klimesh	R	32	Winneshiek	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Knox	D	17	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Koelker	R	33	Dubuque	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Kraayenbrink	R	4	Webster	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Lofgren	R	48	Muscatine	20%	-	-	-	-	+
McClintock	R	42	Linn	25%	+	-	-	-	A
Petersen	D	18	Polk	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Quirnbach	D	25	Story	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Reichman	R	50	Lee	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Rowley	R	5	Dickinson	0%	-	-	-	-	A
Rozenboom	R	19	Marion	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Salmon	R	29	Bremer	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Schultz	R	6	Crawford	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Shiple	R	9	Adams	40%	+	-	-	-	+
Sinclair	R	12	Wayne	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Sweeney	R	27	Hardin	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Taylor, L.	R	2	Sioux	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Taylor, T.	D	40	Linn	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Trone Garriott	D	14	Dallas	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Wahls	D	43	Johnson	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Webster	R	47	Scott	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Weiner	D	45	Johnson	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Westrich	R	13	Wapello	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Whitver	R	23	Polk	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Winckler	D	49	Scott	100%	+	+	+	+	+
Zaun	R	22	Polk	20%	-	-	-	-	+
Zumbach	R	34	Delaware	20%	-	-	-	-	+

PARTISAN BREAKDOWN

Partisan differences were more apparent than ever during the 2023 session. While all anti-LGBTQ bills received bipartisan opposition, they only received partisan support. Because of this, all Democrats have a perfect 100% score having voted for LGBTQ equality at every turn. Republicans have a more mixed record, with some scoring as high as 86% and others scoring as low as 0%. While One Iowa Action is a non-partisan organization, we believe you should have all the data available so that you can make an informed decision when it comes time to cast your vote.



BEST AND WORST PERFORMERS

As previously mentioned, Democrats all had 100% scores. It is not possible to delineate between them using our scorecard. Republicans, however, had a wide range of scores from pro-equality to totally anti-equality.

MOST PRO-EQUALITY REPUBLICANS



Rep Chad
Ingels



Rep Megan
Jones



Rep Brian
Lohse



Rep Michael
Bergan

BEST REPUBLICANS: The only Republican to achieve a 100% score in 2023 was Rep Chad Ingels. In second place is a three way tie between Representatives Megan Jones, Mike Bergan, and Brian Lohse all with scores of 86%. We consider all four of these members to be pro-equality legislators.

MOST ANTI-EQUALITY REPUBLICANS



Rep Jeff Shipley



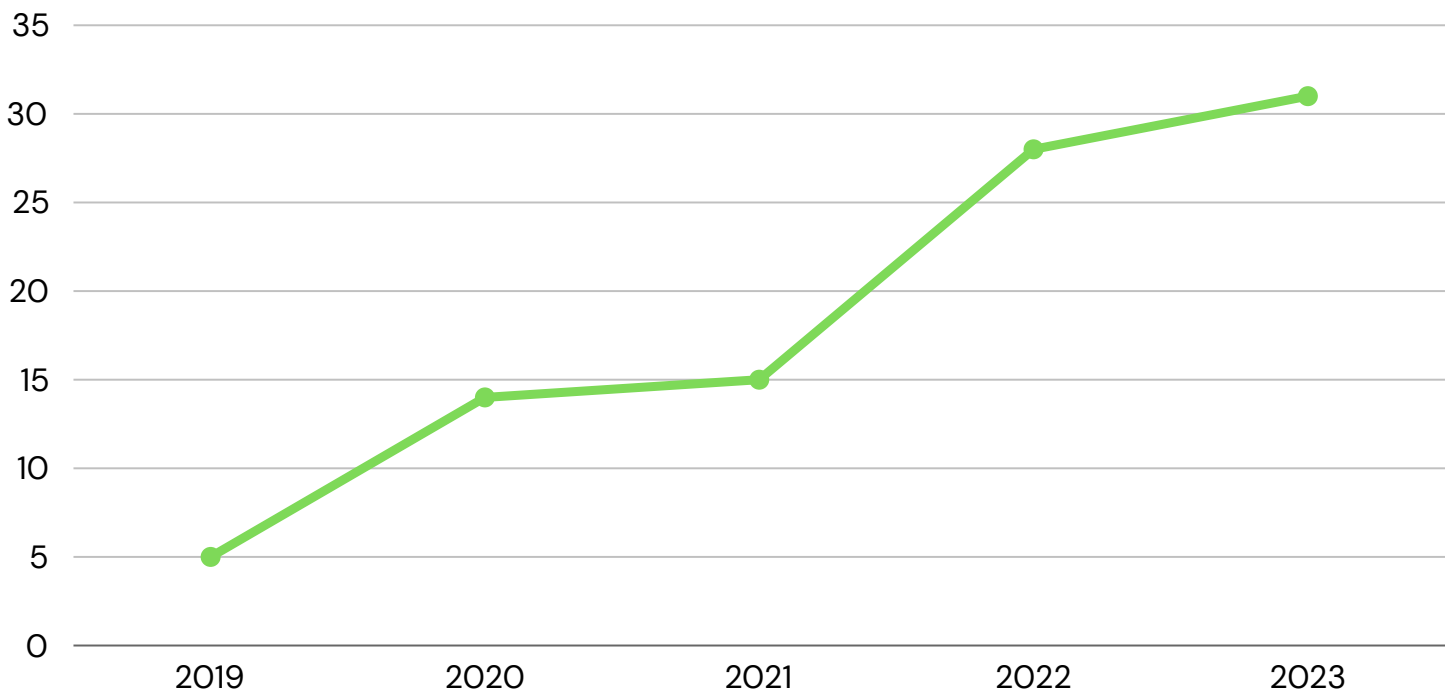
Senator David D. Rowley

WORST REPUBLICANS: Only two legislators received a 0% score making them the lowest performing on our scorecard: Representative Jeff Shipley and Senator David Rowley.

FUTURE TRAJECTORY

While this session was truly terrible, we cannot assume that anti-equality legislators have now accomplished everything they set out to do. Numbers from previous years indicate that anti-LGBTQ legislation is on the rise and we must continue to be prepared to respond to attacks on LGBTQ lowans. The chart below displays the number of active anti-LGBTQ bills in any given session. To read more about what the bills do, visit oneiowaaction.org and click on the anti-LGBTQ bills chart for the given year.

Anti-LGBTQ Bills 2019 – 2023



CONCLUSION

The Iowa Legislature will continue to be a challenging environment for LGBTQ rights until we can elect more pro-equality legislators. Future attacks are anticipated to come in the form of religious exemption legislation that will allow people to pick and choose which laws they want to follow based on their stated religious beliefs. We must resist attempts to reframe these discriminatory policies as bolstering "religious freedom", something already protected by the First Amendment to the Constitution. These laws could have impacts that reach far beyond LGBTQ lowans and often target single mothers, other marginalized communities, and those seeking reproductive healthcare services.

CONTACT DETAILS

action@oneiowa.org / www.oneiowaaction.org / (515) 288-4019