

Bobby Kaufmann
Iowa House District 73



Official Biography

Bobby Kaufmann is serving his third term in the Iowa House.

Kaufmann grew up on his family's farm in rural Wilton and is a graduate of Wilton High School. He attended Muscatine Community College where he received the Outstanding Student of the Year Award. He went on to study business at the University of Iowa.

After college he purchased and remodeled a brick home built in 1876. Kaufmann is a crop and livestock farmer who also owns and operates a steel hauling, construction and demolition business in Cedar County.

Kaufmann is a member of the Farm Bureau, National Rifle Association, Cedar County Historical Society, Cedar County Soldiers Monument Association and a wide variety of service and volunteer organizations. [Legislative Biography, [Accessed 9/20/17](#)]

ALEC membership/ties

In 2014, ALEC claimed that all members of the Iowa Legislature were members of the organization. According to a letter from then House Democratic Leader Mark Smit, all Democrats "informed the Chief Clerk of the Iowa House that no dues or fees were to be paid to ALEC on our behalf and none of us have applied to ALEC for individual membership." However, since we have no evidence that a

similar letter was sent by Iowa Republicans, we assume all Iowa Republicans are ALEC members. (Iowa House Democrats, [1/9/14](#))

ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored/supported

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Sponsored/Authoried
HJR 1 (2013)	Right To Work Act	Co-sponsored
HF 291 (2017)	Public Employer Payroll Deduction Policy Act, Public Employee Freedom Act, and other ALEC legislation	Voted Yes

Kaufman sponsored a joint resolution proposing a so-called right-to-work amendment to the Constitution of the State of Iowa. HJR 1 (2013) would prevent unions from negotiating contract provisions that require all workers, including non-members, to contribute to the costs of worker representation on the job. It is very similar to the ALEC template. (Bill text, [1/15/2013](#))

Kaufman voted to strip public employees of their collective bargaining rights. HF 291 dismantled collective bargaining rights for public workers and required public sector unions to conduct recertification votes ten months prior to the expiration of employment contracts; if the union is decertified, the union's contract with their employer is null and void. This bill banned unions from negotiating with their employers over issues such as health insurance, evaluation procedures, staff reduction and leaves of absence for political purposes. Republicans developed the bill behind closed doors and broke tradition to limit debate on the measure. Senate Minority Leader Robert Hogg, D-Cedar Rapids, called passage of the legislation a "travesty of the democratic system" that will reduce the wages of public-sector employees. All Democrats and six Republicans voted against the bill. (Des Moines Register, [2/16/2017](#); Tri State Public Radio, [9/21/2017](#))

Other Hits

Kaufmann used his committee chairmanship to investigate LGBTQ bullying and suicide prevention conference. Kaufmann announced his intention to hold a hearing to investigate the Governor's Conference on LGBTQ Youth, a non-profit conference that brings together students, parents, and educators to work to combat bullying and suicide in Iowa schools based on unsubstantiated claims that the conference presented "obscene material". The claim was made by an anti-gay fringe group (one [that compared homosexuality to "secondhand cigarette smoke."](#)) (Slate, [10/12/2017](#))

Kaufmann made up stories to get publicity for his anti-free speech "Suck it up, Buttercup" bill. Representative Kaufmann's "suck it up, buttercup" bill, which would impose funding penalties on Iowa universities that used university resources for post-election grief counseling for students and establish new criminal penalties to block interstate highways with protests, garnered a wave of publicity. When he (falsely) claimed during the interview that a college brought in a 'therapy pony' post-election and the program host asked him to substantiate his claim, he hung up instead. (Des Moines Register, [11/17/2016](#)) ([CBC](#))

Kaufmann voted in favor of the nation's strictest abortion law, the fetal heartbeat bill. The law would ban abortions after six weeks when embryonic cardiac activity is detected, which is before most people know they are pregnant. Except for narrowly defined cases of physical medical emergencies, reported rape, and incest doctors face losing their licenses for performing the procedure in instances of unreported rape and "psychological conditions, emotional conditions, familial conditions, or the woman's age". According to Iowa's ACLU, "This virtual ban is made even more harmful for women by the minimum 72-hour waiting period law that the Iowa Legislature passed last year. (That waiting period is currently blocked and awaiting decision from the Iowa Supreme Court.) If that 72-hour wait took effect and the six-week ban also took effect, even if a woman learned of a pregnancy very early, she would then be delayed by the mandatory wait period law—and then could no longer access abortion services." The ACLU, Planned Parenthood, and Emma Goldman Clinic of Iowa City filed a lawsuit to invalidate the law. The judge in the case placed a temporary injunction on the law until the case is settled. In June, the Iowa Supreme Court struck down 72-hour abortion waiting period. [ACLU Iowa, [5/15/2018](#); NPR, [6/1/2018](#); Iowa Public Radio, [6/29/2018](#); SF 359 [signed into law](#) 5/4/2018]