

Dean Fisher

Iowa House District 72



Official Biography

Dean Fisher is serving his third term in the Iowa House.

Dean is a fifth-generation Iowa farmer and owns and operates a Heritage Farm that has been in his family since 1852.

Dean was raised in Tama County and upon graduation from South Tama High school in 1975, Dean went on to receive a Bachelor's Degree in Electronics Engineering Technology at the DeVry Institute of Technology in Chicago.

After a successful career in the electronics industry, Dean realized his dream of returning to the family farm in 2004 and he joined his brother, Brad, in managing a 120-head herd of beef cows. The Fisher's retired from active farming in 2014 and now rent out their land to neighboring farmers. Dean still works to maintain the farm property.

Over the last seven years, Dean has served as a Precinct Election Chairman, been elected twice to serve as Township Clerk, was elected as the Tama County Republican Party County Chairman and was appointed to the Tama County Pioneer Cemetery Association.

[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](#))

Lists himself as a member of ALEC on Official Bio

ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored/supported

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Sponsored/Authorred
HF 57	Castle Doctrine Act	Sponsored
HJR 1	Right to Work	Sponsored
HF 295	Living Wage Mandate Preemption Act	Voted yea
HF 291	Public Employer Payroll Deduction Policy Act	Voted yea

Fisher sponsored “stand your ground” legislation. HF 57 mirrors ALEC’s most infamous model bill. In the wake of the 2013 Florida jury verdict acquitting George Zimmerman of charges stemming from the shooting death of Trayvon Martin, Attorney General Eric Holder criticized “stand your ground” laws as “senselessly expand[ing] the concept of self-defense and sow[ing] dangerous conflict in our neighborhoods.” Research at Texas A&M has linked “Stand Your Ground” laws to increase rates of homicides. ([Source Watch](#); NPR, [1/21/2013](#))

Fisher 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](#))

Fisher voted to preempt municipalities from establishing a local minimum wage. HF 295 rolled back wage increases in Polk, Johnson, Wapello, and Linn counties, mandating that no local minimum wage exceed the state level of \$7.25 an hour. In opposition, Rep. Amy Nielsen (D) stated, “for the state to come in and take away the right of communities to decide how their values systems, what they want to make a priority in their communities — I believe it’s an overreach. And I believe it’s not our place.” In addition to preventing cities and counties from setting their own minimum wages, the bill also prohibits them from requiring things like paid family leave. (The Des Moines Register, [3/9/2017](#))

Fisher 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

Fisher was recorded telling a constituent that she and her ill son should move out of state so that her son could receive health care. After a 2016 rally for medical marijuana legalization outside the statehouse, Fisher, who opposed legalization efforts in the legislature, told Quincy Grittman to go out of state to get medicinal cannabis for her young son, who suffered from a debilitating seizure disorder. “If it (were) my kid, I would move to Colorado,” Fisher advised Grittman. When Grittman questioned Fisher as to why she should have to move away, Fisher told her she needed to do more as a parent, Grittman said. According to Grittman, cannabis oil reduced her son’s seizures from 5-7 a day to zero, but was unavailable in Iowa. Fisher said legislation was not “the proper process of the use of approving drugs.” (Times-Republican, [3/25/16](#))

Fisher sponsored a bill that would keep 911 calls secret. House File 571 would require law enforcement agencies to edit medical information out of 911 recordings or provide redacted transcripts when the public requests the recordings, now considered public records under Iowa law. However, Sen. Jeff Danielson, D-Waterloo, voted against the bill Thursday because he fears it could be more broadly applied to keep secret all 911 recordings, body camera videos and police logs — records Danielson thinks provide police accountability to the public. (The Gazette, [3/31/2017](#))

Fisher introduced legislation to bring “biblical literacy” classes into public schools. Although the bill lacks any specific academic requirements for teachers to administer the course, according to Fisher, “The idea behind this course is to teach the major themes of the Bible and not give in to the minutiae of each viewpoint. The class should teach themes that transcend individual interpretations.” Opponents of the bill claim this violates the separation of church and state. “The bill would allow virtually anyone to indoctrinate without any peer review by professional biblical scholars,” Professor Avalos said. “It opens a back door to return the Bible to a privileged religious status in public schools.” (Iowa State Daily, [2/5/2018](#); HF 2301 [in committee](#) 2/6/2018)

Fisher 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]