

Mary Ann Hanusa
Iowa House District 16



Official Biography

Mary Ann Hanusa is serving her fourth term in the Iowa House.

Mary Ann was born and raised in Council Bluffs. She received her K-12 education in Council Bluffs, and attended Concordia Teachers College where she earned a degree in education with majors in history and political science. She continued her education at the University of Nebraska at Lincoln, earning her master's degree in American History.

She has served as president of the Friends of the Union Pacific Railroad Museum and chaired the fundraising effort to create the Museum in the Carnegie Library Building. She serves on the Museum Board.

Mary Ann also was an area representative for Senator Chuck Grassley, before taking a position in the administration of President George W. Bush. She worked in Washington D.C., as Director of the Office of Presidential Personal Correspondence. In 2006, Mary Ann resigned her position when she was nominated to run for Iowa Secretary of State. She has chaired the Pottawattamie County Republicans and served on the Iowa Commission on Volunteer Service.

Currently, Mary Ann works as a School Administrative Manager for the Council Bluffs Community School District. She is also a co-owner of Hanusa Hardware and Rental in Council Bluffs.

Mary Ann and her husband, Charlie Johnson, were married in 2006. She is a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Council Bluffs.

(Legislative Biography, [Accessed 9/21/17](#))

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](#))

Campaign donations from ALEC member corporations

2011 Education Task Force Member

Total ALEC Corporate Contributions -- **At least \$3,350¹**

7/01/2016	#1922 Iowans for Mary Ann Hanusa 121 Fox Haven Drive Council Bluffs, IA, 51503	#8052 Dupont Good Government Fund CRP 730/4360-1, 974 Centre Road Wilmington, DE, 19805	Contribution	\$500.00
6/13/2016	#1922 Iowans for Mary Ann Hanusa 121 Fox Haven Drive Council Bluffs, IA, 51503	#8313 Archer Daniels Midland Company - ADM PAC 4666 Faries Parkway, PO Box 1470 Decatur, IL, 62526-5666	Contribution	\$500.00
8/11/2014	#1922 Iowans for Mary Ann Hanusa 121 Fox Haven Drive Council Bluffs, IA, 51503	#8028 Monsanto Citizenship Fund Monsanto, 1300 I Street, NW, Ste 450E Washington, DC, 20005	Contribution	\$250.00
1/06/2012	#1922 Iowans for Mary Ann Hanusa 121 Fox Haven Drive Council Bluffs, IA, 51503	#6082 MidAmerican Energy Company PAC 666 Grand Avenue, P.O. Box 657 Des Moines, IA, 50306-0657	Contribution	\$100.00
10/09/2010	#1922 Iowans for Mary Ann Hanusa 121 Fox Haven Drive Council Bluffs, IA, 51503	#6027 Deere & Company PAC - Iowa (Deere PAC-Iowa) One John Deere Place Moline, IL, 61265	Contribution	\$1,500.00

¹ Iowa Campaign Finance Database, [Accessed 10/3/2017](#)

9/27/2006	#5130 Iowans for Hanusa - Dissolved 2006 916 Harrison Street Council Bluffs, IA, 51503	#8035 Union Pacific Fund for Effective Government 700 13th Street NW, Suite 350 Washington, DC, 20005	Contribution	\$500.00
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ALEC model legislation authored/sponsored

Bill Title/Number	ALEC Model Bill	Sponsored/Authorred
HF368	“No Sanctuary Cities for Illegal Immigrants Act”	Sponsor
HJR1	“Right to Work Act”	Sponsor
HF 295	Living Wage Mandate Preemption Act	Voted Yea
HF 95	Voter ID Act	Voted Yea
HF 589	Animal and Ecological Terrorism Act	Voted Yea

Hanusa 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](#))

Hanusa sponsored a bill prohibiting “sanctuary cities.” The bill mandates local enforcement of federal immigration law, allows private citizens to sue if they feel their town, city, county or state government is not “fully” enforcing immigration law, makes it a crime to have an illegal immigrant in one’s vehicle, makes presence on state soil without federal immigration status a criminal offense, and requires that employers use the E-Verify system (and further criminalizing the employment of illegal immigrants). HF 368 prohibits local government from deciding how best to allocate limited law enforcement resources to confront the most pressing public safety threats and interferes with the law enforcement-community relationship. ([CMD](#))

Hanusa 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](#))

Hanusa voted in favor of burdensome photo ID and proof of citizenship requirements. This bill is similar in effect to ALEC legislation and would disenfranchise minority voters. ([CMD](#))

Hanusa voted for HF 589 in 2012, a bill that became the nation’s first “Ag Gag” law. According to *The Atlantic*, this bill allows factory farms to hide animal and ecological abuse from the public. It criminalizes investigative journalists and animal protection advocates who take entry-level jobs at factory farms in

order to document the rampant food safety and animal welfare abuses within. (The Atlantic, [3/20/2012](#); Food Safety News, [3/1/2012](#))

Other Hits

Hanusa 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]