

## **Sandy Salmon**

### **Iowa House District 63**



#### **Official Biography**

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Sandy Salmon is serving her third term in the Iowa House.

Sandy and her husband, Matt, live on an acreage between Janesville and Denver and have lived in northeast Iowa 25 years. Currently, Sandy partners with her sister to manage the family farm in northwest Iowa.

Sandy was born in Oklahoma where her dad was stationed at the Army base Fort Sill. After he was discharged her family moved back to the family farm near Kingsley in northwest Iowa where she grew up, raising corn, soybeans, hogs, and cattle.

Sandy graduated from Kingsley-Pierson High School in 1973 and later from UNI in 1977 with a degree in Business Management. Upon graduation she was commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps and served from 1977-1980.

Sandy met Matt in the Marines and after her discharge the couple was married, and have been for 36 years. Matt is a helicopter pilot and retired from the Iowa Army National Guard with 34 years of military service. Sandy was a home educator for 18 years, teaching all three of the couple's sons through K-12, graduating the youngest in 2007. Sandy helped run an area homeschool cooperative that provided group educational activities for kids such as gym, choir, drama and speech and also served as a 4-H leader for 14 years in Black Hawk County.

Sandy and Matt have 3 sons. Caleb and his wife, Sheridan, along with their son Ethan, are at home in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he is an attorney in his own private practice. Jesse and his wife, Lacey, along with their 3-year old daughter, Sidney and newborn son, Titus, are stationed in Abilene, Texas where Jesse is a Captain on active duty in the Air Force and flies C-130's. Peter and his wife, Amy with their 1-year old son, Paul, live nearby in Cedar Falls where he is the new senior pastor at Trinity Bible Church.

Sandy is involved in a number of groups and organizations including Cornerstone Fellowship Church, NICHE-the state homeschool organization, Farm Bureau, Marine Corps League, Iowa Corn Growers, and the Black Hawk County Republican Women.

(Legislative Biography, [Accessed 9/20/17](#))

### **ALEC membership/ties**

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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**

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| <b>Bill Title/Number</b> | <b>ALEC Model Bill</b>  | <b>Sponsored/Authorred</b> |
|--------------------------|---|----------------------------|
| HF 57                    | Castle Doctrine Act   | <a href="#">Sponsored</a>  |
| HF 368                   | No Sanctuary Cities for Illegal Immigrants Act  | <a href="#">Sponsored</a>  |
| HF291                    | Public Employer Payroll Deduction Policy Act, Public Employee Freedom Act, and other ALEC legislation | <a href="#">Voted Yea</a>  |
| HF 295                   | Living Wage Mandate Preemption Act  | <a href="#">Voted yea</a>  |

**Salmon 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](#))

**Salmon 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](#))

**Salmon 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](#))

**Salmon 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](#))

## Other Hits

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**Salmon introduced legislation to make it harder for victims of domestic abuse to get temporary restraining orders.** Salmon's bill, "HF 2246 would increase the standard for getting a temporary protective order from "a preponderance of the evidence" to "beyond a reasonable doubt." The other bill, HF 2214, would strip judges of the power to schedule hearings on protective orders at their discretion, and would automatically terminate any order if a hearing on it didn't occur within 15 days of the request for the order being filed." When asked why she filed the bills Salmon responded, "Well, I had a constituent that deals with the issue quite a bit visit with me about it, and said there are definitely abuses in the system. And so I was hoping to, you know, get conversations started about how we could curb those abuses, yet still keep that protection in place." She based the victim blaming legislation off of anecdotes of "false reporting" instead of academic studies, which prove the rate of false reporting is in the single digits. (Little Village Mag, [2/13/2018](#); HF 2214 [introduced](#) 2/2/2018; HF 2246 [introduced](#) 2/5/2018)

**Salmon introduced legislation that critics say would allow doctors to withhold vital fetal health information.** After the Iowa Supreme Court sided with the plaintiff of a wrongful birth case, Salmon introduced legislation to effectively reverse the court's decision. According to the Gazette, "A key legal component to the case was the parents' claim that, had they known, they would have terminated the pregnancy. And despite Salmon's opining about judicial overreach, this also is clearly a key component of her desire to block parents' ability to know the truth." The legislation was withdrawn on March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018. (Gazette, [12/6/2017](#); HF 2165 [withdrawn](#) 3/1/2018)

**Representative Salmon introduced Iowa's anti-LGBT bathroom bill, modeled after the infamous North Carolina law.** Most notably, the bill removes protections for trans individuals to use a multiple occupancy public bathroom that best fits their gender identity. From the Des Moines Register, "What the bill just says is that schools and businesses are allowed to take action to protect women and girls by preserving access (to toilet facilities and locker rooms) based on biological sex," said the bill's sponsor, Rep. Sandy Salmon, R-Janesville." (Pink News [2/1/2018](#); HF 2164 [introduced](#) 1/31/2018; The Des Moines Register, [1/31/18](#))

**Salmon 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]