

Iowa Democratic Party – 2nd Congressional District Platform Committee – 2008

Statement of Principles

Adopted at Convention
April 26, 2008

Iowa Democrats are proud of our Party's heritage, its diversity, and its accomplishments. The spirit that animates the United States of America's oldest political party is alive throughout the world today and stands as a model for those who strive to obtain the liberties and freedoms that we currently enjoy. Iowans embrace that spirit and nothing declares it more proudly than our State motto, "Our Liberties We Prize, and Our Rights We Will Maintain".

No part of that heritage is more valuable than our belief in the rights and worth of each individual. Americans through history have fought and died to protect our freedoms and extend those freedoms to the oppressed. We honor our military veterans, and support those in our armed services today who, with their families, sacrifice so much. Because we view our military service members with the utmost regard, we demand that US foreign policy stress cooperation and respect, with military action only as a last resort."

The primary function of government is to accomplish those social goals collectively that we cannot achieve as individuals. Beyond food and shelter, we consider health care, employment and education to be basic human needs. Market forces alone often do not serve the common good. Enforcement of fair taxation, labor compensation and trade policies, and protection of the right for workers to organize and for small businesses to flourish, will build a strong, competitive and efficient marketplace that encourages ingenuity, integrity and, ultimately, prosperity.

We believe in a truly representative government that is compassionate, progressive, responsible and fair. We support a return to meaningful checks and balances between the three branches of government so that the United States can again inspire confidence and hope for all.

We consider it a travesty that many Americans cannot afford the health insurance that higher health care costs have made a necessity. We demand that our elected officials take action to ensure all Americans have equal access to affordable, high-quality health care.

Religion and government are important parts of American life; however, we support separation of church and state.

We must protect our environment from wasteful and indiscriminate use, and promote sound energy practices. Our national parks, oceans and ancient forests, as well as our local land and family farms, must be preserved for our children's futures.

Education is an investment in that future, and is essential to personal and social growth and prosperity. To maintain the high standards expected of Iowa's education systems and safeguard the future of our nation, we must provide relevant, affordable, innovative, accessible and adequately funded, high-quality education at all levels.

We are committed to upholding the unalienable rights we were founded under; therefore, we unequivocally oppose policies that require forfeiting those rights under any circumstances. We must stand against terrorism, but we cannot allow that fight to cost us the freedoms that so many have sacrificed to preserve. By maintaining those freedoms for all people, we can be proud to call ourselves Iowans, Americans and Democrats.