

WEEK IN REVIEW

February 18, 2010

Senator Brad Zaun

Request for Attorney General's Legal Opinion Proposed Budget

*Action begins on new budget, Senate GOP asks Attorney General Miller
to issue important opinion, help avoid budgeting mistakes of last three years*

I, as well as other senators, formally asked Iowa Attorney General Tom Miller to review a report by State Auditor David Vaudt and issue an official legal opinion as to whether Governor Culver should produce a new proposed budget given that findings of the report shows his current proposal surpasses Iowa's statutory 99 percent spending limitation as addressed in Sections 8.21 and 8.54 of the Iowa Code.

Late last week, State Auditor David Vaudt issued a thorough analysis of Governor Culver's proposed budget. Because he found that it exceeded Iowa's 99 percent spending limitation by approximately \$25 million, Auditor Vaudt then forwarded his report to Attorney General Tom Miller.

Given that the governor's proposed budget serves as a roadmap for lawmakers to use in this process, I believe it is of utmost importance that the governor's proposal comply fully with state law since serious legislative work on Iowa's budget will begin soon.

Here is a text of the letter to Attorney General Miller:

Dear Attorney General Tom Miller:

Recently, State Auditor David Vaudt conducted a very thorough analysis of Governor Chet Culver's proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year. Because the analysis shows that Governor Culver's proposed budget surpasses the statutory 99 percent spending limitation by approximately \$25 million dollars, Auditor Vaudt forwarded his report to your office for your legal opinion on this very important matter.

Now nearly halfway through this shortened session, it has been reported that Senators will receive their budget targets this week and serious legislative work will commence on the new budget. Given that the governor's proposed budget serves as a roadmap for lawmakers to use in this process, Senate Republicans believe it is of utmost importance that the governor's proposal comply fully with state law in accordance with sections 8.21 and 8.54 of the Iowa Code.

As Iowa's Attorney General, all Senate Republicans are asking you to review Governor Culver's proposed budget and Auditor Vaudt's analysis and then provide an official legal opinion in a timely manner. As the Legislature begins the budgeting process in earnest, your

legal opinion, as a statewide elected official and Iowa's top attorney, will provide us much needed guidance as we move forward.

Iowans have made it clear that they want a balanced budget that reflects their priorities and Senate Republicans are committed to working towards those goals. We look forward to your timely response and official legal opinion on this important matter.

I have three forums set in Urbandale, sponsored by the great Urbandale Chamber, with my friend, Rep. Scott Raecker.

Saturday, February 20th from 9:00 am -11:00 at Chamber Office (2900 Justin Drive, Suite L)

Saturday, March 20th from 9:00 am -11:00 at Chamber Office (2900 Justin Drive, Suite L)

Saturday, April 17th from 9:00am -11:00 at Chamber Office (2900 Justin Drive, Suite L)

My forum for Des Moines is to be held with my friend, Rep. Janet Petersen.

Saturday, February 27th at 1:00 at Christopher's Restaurant banquet room

Please join me when you can. If you cannot attend please email me at brad.zaun@legis.state.ia.us or call 515-281-3371. I am always interested in your opinion and it is truly an honor to serve you!