



Iowa Business Council Encouraged by Legislative Leaders' Focus on Workforce

(DES MOINES) – The Iowa Business Council (IBC) today released a statement following the opening of Iowa's 2019 legislative session. In the Iowa House and Iowa Senate, legislative leaders outlined their priorities for the months ahead, with attracting a skilled workforce being a common theme across party lines.

"The Iowa Business Council commends Iowa's legislative leaders for their focus on the biggest challenge facing Iowa's job creators: The difficulty in attracting and retaining a high-quality workforce to fill thousands of job openings across Iowa," said IBC Executive Director Georgia Van Gundy. "The Iowa Business Council and our members – the twenty-three largest employers in Iowa – stand ready to work with Republicans and Democrats in the Iowa Legislature to pass meaningful policy that addresses this impediment to future economic growth across our great state."

The IBC's 2019 legislative priorities include:

- **Workforce:** IBC members consistently identify attracting, developing and retaining a quality workforce as their primary business challenge in the IBC's quarterly economic outlook surveys. To continue the implementation of the state's Future Ready Iowa initiative the IBC supports funding the program's Last Dollar Scholarship and Employer Innovation Fund.
- **Housing:** In response to the feedback the IBC collected during its 2018 Vision to Vitality meetings across Iowa, the IBC supports initiatives that will provide additional resources to develop workforce housing throughout the state, including an increased investment in the State Housing Trust Fund and Workforce Housing Tax Credit programs.
- **Tax Climate:** The IBC applauds lawmakers for passing tax reform during the 2018 legislative session. The IBC supports the continued review of Iowa's tax code in order to increase the competitiveness of Iowa's tax climate.

For more information on the Iowa Business Council, please visit www.IowaBusinessCouncil.org.

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About the Iowa Business Council

The Iowa Business Council (IBC) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose 23 members are the chief decision makers of major Iowa employers. One in six jobs in Iowa are tied to an IBC company. IBC member companies have invested billions of dollars of capital in Iowa's commercial infrastructure; lead the way in technology innovation, R&D, and grants procured; and are often the driving financial and volunteer forces behind philanthropic efforts all over the state.

IBC member companies include: Alliant Energy; Casey's General Stores, Inc.; Collins Aerospace; Corteva Agriscience; Deere & Company; Fareway; FBL Financial Group, Inc.; HNI Corporation; Hy-Vee, Inc.; Iowa Bankers Association; Kent Corporation; Mercy Health Network; Meredith Corporation; MidAmerican Energy Company; Pella Corporation; Principal; Ruan Transportation Management Systems; The Weitz Company; The University of Iowa Health Care; UnityPoint Health; Vermeer Corporation; Wellmark Blue Cross Blue Shield of Iowa; and Wells Enterprises, Inc.