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**STATE AUDITOR ROB SAND RESPONDS TO GOVERNOR'S COMMENTS ON  
SENATE FILE 478**

May 11, 2023

**Des Moines, IA** – Iowa State Auditor Rob Sand today responded to Governor Kim Reynolds' remarks about Senate File 478 during a recording of [Iowa Press](#).

*"Every Iowan should be alarmed if a politician replaces independent courts with a decision panel they control as a way to "work things out." All the supporters of this bill have worked out is a way to hide waste and corruption, without any pesky independent auditors or independent courts in the way," said Sand.*

Senate File 478 would, in many instances, eliminate checks and balances by limiting the Auditor's access to the courts. Instead, an arbitration board, made up of two representatives from the executive branch and one representative from the Auditor's Office, would decide if records needed to expose waste, fraud, and abuse would be turned over to the Auditor's Office.

*"As I noted weeks ago, I've tried to "work things out" with the legislative leadership and the Governor, to avoid a bill opposed by a [bipartisan coalition of government watchdogs and auditor professionals](#) from around the country. My communications still have not received a response," said Sand. "What arbitration is used for in private sector audits is billing disputes. But auditors can't be denied records they need to do their audit, public or private- unless this bill becomes law."*