

Boosting Corruption; Gutting Checks & Balances; Risking Billions:

STOP SF478 From Passing the Iowa House

- The State Auditor would only uncover waste, fraud, and abuse when the people responsible for it agree. Any document request can be denied by the entity being audited plus a person picked by the Governor, who is nearly always also responsible for the entity .They could bury everything.
- The bill guts Judicial Branch's check and balance as old as our Republic: Judicial Review. Then, the bill makes the decision of those two people final, no matter how baseless or unreasonable. Currently, the Auditor has access to Courts, and has used it to get documentation government officials have tried to hide.
- An anti-partisan coalition of government oversight leaders from around the nation and a former US Comptroller General reviewed the bill within 24 hours and agree: it will jeopardize billions of dollars in services plus the state's credit rating. Federal dollars related to road construction, public safety, medical care, medical research, student loans, education funding, and the like could be lost if related records are not audited.
- Even right-wing organizations agree with Sand: government needs more oversight, not less: The American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC) has model legislation that does the opposite of this bill, specifically stating "The scope for each performance audit shall not be limited" and "no legislative body, officeholder, or employee may impede or restrict the authority or the actions of the state auditor to conduct independent, comprehensive performance audits." Montana is currently considering legislation (Senate Bill 73) that does the opposite of what is being proposed here: strengthening access and imposing a criminal penalty for refusal/obstruction by government officials.
- Our Audits Already Conform to Standards: Our staff has earned the highest peer review rating possible in our most recent review. All audits follow professional standards. You think otherwise, then you should file an ethical complaint. Make my day.
- The code being gutted was passed upon the recommendation of a Republican Auditor of State and implemented by a legislature with a Democratic majority.
- At least one Senator admitted he had not read the bill before voting for it!
- READ THE BILL YOURSELF, and the letters from professionals around the nation here.
auditor.iowa.gov/watchdog
- CONTACT YOUR HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE: <https://www.legis.iowa.gov/legislators/find>