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**STATE AUDITOR ROB SAND RESPONDS TO IOWA ATHLETIC DIRECTOR  
GARY BARTA ANNOUNCING RETIREMENT**

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**Des Moines, IA** – State Auditor Rob Sand today responded to Iowa Athletic Director Gary Barta announcing his retirement less than three months after Auditor Sand called for his resignation and voted against taxpayers funding a multi-million-dollar discrimination lawsuit, the fourth discrimination lawsuit brought against the Iowa Athletic Department in less than nine years.

*“Gary Barta’s departure is a long time coming given the four different lawsuits for discrimination that cost Iowa more than \$11 million,” said Sand.*

*“Discrimination demands accountability. The University of Iowa should publicly release all terms of his departure.”*

Auditor Sand was the sole member of the State Appeal Board to vote against settling a discrimination lawsuit brought against the Department by a group of black student-athletes who claimed mistreatment based on race.

The settlement agreement totaled nearly \$4.2 million, \$2 million of which would have been paid by taxpayers had the Iowa Athletic Department not later agreed to reimburse the state for that portion of the settlement.