

Policy Position One-Pager

[HF 2112](#)

IOWA MMJ POSITION: Against

Overview

HF 2112 would restate current laws that already limit access to certain benefits to those who meet eligibility requirements related to immigration status. The bill also creates state immigration laws already defined in federal immigration law and has a particular concerning section that makes knowingly transporting a person who is in the state without authorization a felony.

HF 2112 is redundant and unnecessary

- Many of the bill's provisions are mirror-images of current federal law.
- Although the bill may not further restrict immigrant family's access to most services, it may create a more inhospitable environment that hinders the ability of eligible people (including U.S. citizen children) to receive the public benefits to which they are entitled.
- Similar attempts to create state-level immigration laws in other states have been soundly rejected.

HF 2112 would create additional hardship for vulnerable Iowans

- Families who qualify for public benefits are already struggling and are asked to wait during difficult times. This bill would prolong those wait times and harm vulnerable populations.
- The bill would create confusion and have a chilling effect especially for mixed status families (families where some members are U.S. citizens and other aren't) and citizens who don't have some documents (like older Iowans who don't have their birth certificate, survivors of natural disasters, low-income US citizens, people experiencing homelessness).

HF 2112 could have far reaching impacts for everyday activities

- The bill could lead to people being arrested for driving their dad to the doctor, Uber drivers and paramedics facing charges in their everyday work, pastors being charged with felonies for giving someone a ride to church.
- Other states that have passed similar bills have seen an increase in fear among immigrant families, especially of being parents being separated from their families, as well as an increase in anti-immigrant sentiment in the state.
- The bill may infringe on religious liberties for churches who include undocumented parishioners or otherwise work with people living in the U.S. without authorization, providing temporary housing or engaging in home-based worship.
- In the first two years of implementation of a similar law in Oklahoma, 2 out of the 3 arrests were for people who were unable to provide the immigration status of siblings or roommates.

- Similar bills in other states also led to a decrease immigrants' trust in law enforcement. Community policing is less effective with less trust and people are reluctant to report criminal activity.

Bill Status

01/24/2024 Subcommittee Meeting: 01/30/2024 12:00PM RM 102, Sup. Ct. Consult.

01/24/2024 Subcommittee: Holt, Olson and Wheeler. H.J. 132.

01/23/2024 Introduced, referred to Judiciary. H.J. 120.