



The General Assembly

STATE OF IOWA
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

July 10, 2018

Dear Governor Reynolds, Leader Whitver and Speaker Upmeyer:

We have been informed that because of budget cuts approved by the Republican-controlled Legislature and signed by the Governor, the University of Iowa is planning to eliminate its Labor Center.

This is not the first negative consequence of your fiscal mismanagement and Iowans know it won't be the last. The budgets you have approved for our three universities have already raised tuition on working families and this decision to close the Labor Center is another attack on Iowa workers.

As you know, the Labor Center, which was founded in 1950, is the only center in our university system that is dedicated to workplace and labor issues. Shutting Iowa's Labor Center sends a horrible message to university students that we are hoping to keep in our state after graduation to fill high-skill, high-wage jobs.

At a time when Iowa's income growth and job creation efforts have failed to meet expectations, the Labor Center has the potential to provide policymakers with timely information about today's rapidly changing economic and legal environment, about how best to create and preserve quality jobs, and about how to strengthen workers' rights.

I encourage you all to contact UI President Bruce Herreld, UI Law School Dean Kevin Washburn, and the members of the Board of Regents to reverse course and preserve the University of Iowa's Labor Center.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Janet Petersen".

Sen. Janet Petersen
Senate Democratic Leader

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Smith".

Rep. Mark Smith
House Democratic Leader