



Item No. 33
MEMO

To: Mayor & City Council
From: Mark O. Lambert, City Attorney
Date: March 10, 2026
Subject: HF 2541

Last year, the Iowa Legislature removed gender identity as a protected class under the Iowa Civil Rights Act. On February 10, 2026, the Ames City Council adopted Ordinance #4586, which added gender identity as a protected class under the Ames Human Rights ordinance.

The Iowa Legislature is currently considering HF 2541, which would prohibit cities from having broader protections under local civil rights ordinances than the state Civil Rights Act. The same language of HF 2541 is being offered as an amendment to another bill, SF 579. That amendment passed, and the bill passed the House on Thursday, March 5. The bill will now go back to the Iowa Senate.

At the February 24, 2026 Council meeting, the Council adopted a motion to place on a future agenda a discussion of sending a letter to the state legislators who represent Ames, stating opposition to the Legislature taking away local control on this subject matter.

Two city councils in the Des Moines Metro area have recently sent letters to their legislators expressing opposition to HF 2451. One was the City of Urbandale, and one was the City of Windsor Heights. Examples of their letters are attached.

The Council can direct that a letter, on behalf of the Council, expressing opposition to HF 2541 (or similar bills), be sent to state legislators who represent any portion of the City of Ames.

ATTACHMENT(S):

[Sample City Correspondence.pdf](#)
[HF2541Letter.pdf](#)