

Josh Turek understands it is working families like his that bear the cost of Washington's corruption. His father's exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam caused Turek to be born with Spina Bifida. He underwent 21 surgeries by age 12, and went on to become a four-time Paralympian and two-time gold medalist in wheelchair basketball. Now Trump's tariffs, his cuts to Medicaid, and the billions he spends on wars are hurting Iowans. In the Senate, Turek will take on Trump to protect hardworking Iowans.

TUREK IS A FOUR-TIME PARALYMPIAN AND TWO-TIME GOLD MEDALIST WHO WAS BORN WITH SPINA BIFIDA FOLLOWING HIS FATHER'S EXPOSURE TO AGENT ORANGE IN VIETNAM AND UNDERWENT 21 SURGERIES BY THE AGE OF 12

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Turek Was Born With Spina Bifida And Had 21 Surgeries Before He Was 12 Years Old. "Turek, who uses a wheelchair, was born with spina bifida and had 21 surgeries before he was 12 years old. He now works for a nonprofit that provides adaptive sports equipment and free summer camps for kids with disabilities." [Des Moines Register, [8/12/25](#)]

Turek Was Born With Spina Bifida After His Father's Exposure To Agent Orange In Vietnam. "Josh Turek has never been afraid of long odds. Born with spina bifida after his father's exposure to Agent Orange in Vietnam, Turek endured 21 surgeries by age 12. He then went on to win two Paralympic gold medals for Team USA in wheelchair basketball." [Iowa Starting Line, [8/12/25](#)]

TUREK WAS A FOUR-TIME PARALYMPIAN AND TWO-TIME GOLD MEDALIST IN WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL, CITING HIS DAD'S VA HEALTH COVERAGE AS KEY SUPPORT

The Gazette's Todd Dorman: "Turek Represented The United States At Four Paralympics In Basketball And Is A Three-Time Medalist, Two Gold. No One In The Democratic Primary Can Match That." "Some Democrats I've talked with say we need to keep an eye on Turek. He's impressive and could win the nomination, they insist. Turek represented the United States at four Paralympics in basketball and is a three-time medalist, two gold. No one in the Democratic primary can match that." [Todd Dorman, The Gazette, [6/22/25](#)]

Daily Nonpareil: Paralympian Turek Won Gold In Rio In 2016 And In Tokyo In 2020 And Won Bronze In London In 2012. "Outside of football, Council Bluffs has produced a boxer who repped his hometown with his ring name, Ron 'The Council Bluffs Butcher' Stander – 37 wins, 28 by knockout, in his career – a PGA Tour golfer – Jerry Smith – and a wheelchair basketball Paralympian – Joshua Turek, who won gold in Rio ('16) and Tokyo ('20), and a bronze in London ('12)." [Daily Nonpareil, [1/10/23](#)]

Iowa Capital Dispatch: Josh Turek Cited "His Father's Veterans Affairs Health Coverage" As A Key Support In His Life, Including His Success At The Paralympics. "Turek said his wins in the Paralympics and in politics have come from support through the AEAs and other state programs, as well as his father's Veterans Affairs health coverage. He cited former U.S. Sen. Tom Harkin as a figure in Iowa politics who 'made sure that the doors were open for kids like me' – but said Iowa's current representation in Washington is 'just closing doors.'" [Iowa Capital Dispatch, [8/12/25](#)]

TRUMP'S TARIFFS, CUTS TO MEDICAID, AND BILLIONS SPENT ON WARS ARE HURTING IOWANS

TRUMP'S "CHAOTIC" TARIFFS ADD COSTS AMID A "GROWING DISASTER" FOR IOWA FARMERS AND HAVE ALREADY COST IOWA FAMILIES AN ESTIMATED \$1,000

HEADLINE: "Trump Tariffs Add Costs Amid 'Growing Disaster,' Some Iowa Farmers Say." [Des Moines Register, [2/19/26](#)]

HEADLINE: "Iowa Farmers Facing High Production Costs, Trade Volatility In 2026." [KCRG, [2/11/26](#)]

HEADLINE: "With Falling Profits, Iowa Farmers Facing 'Extreme Financial Distress,' More Bankruptcies." [Des Moines Register, [11/20/25](#)]

HEADLINE: "Farmers Face Rising Stress As Tariffs And Market Hardships Increase Calls For Help." [CBS 2 Iowa, [12/8/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “Iowa’s Economy Will Feel More Impacts Than Other States From Tariffs Says Economist” [KCRG, [11/14/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “‘Everything, Everywhere, All At Once’: Tariffs, Costs And Disease Squeeze Iowa Farms.” [The Gazette, [9/22/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “Iowa Soybean Farmers Lost China As A Buyer. Cattle Was Their Backup Plan — Then Trump Announced Plans To Import More Beef.” [CBS News, [10/27/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “WATCH: Iowa Farmers Say Tariffs Are Devastating Farm Economy.” [Iowa Starting Line, [2/21/26](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tariffs Imposed By Trump Threaten Iowa’s Agricultural Industry.” [Axios, [4/7/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “Tariffs Cost Iowa Businesses \$90M In April, New Report Says, A 304% Hike From 2024.” [Iowa City Press-Citizen, [6/18/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “As Trump Promotes Economy In Iowa, Many Residents Feel Pain.” [New York Times, [1/27/26](#)]

The Gazette: Iowa Soybean Farmers Said “Pain [From Tariffs] Is Showing Up Everywhere On The Farm — In Sharply Higher Input Costs, Thinner Marketing Options And Growing Worry That Another Sustained Downturn Could Force Some Farmers Out Of The Business.” “As tariffs and shifting trade policy reshape global markets, Iowa soybean farmers say the pain is showing up everywhere on the farm — in sharply higher input costs, thinner marketing options and growing worry that another sustained downturn could force some farmers out of the business. ‘I tell everybody, it’s everything, everywhere, all at once,’ said April Hemmes, who farms about 900 acres of corn and soybeans south of Hampton. ‘Our input — the cost to put this crop in the ground — is going up, and our prices are not. ... We just have a lot going on all at once.’” [The Gazette, [9/22/25](#)]

Chief Executive Of The Iowa Soybean Association Said “It Is A Dire Time For American Farmers, Particularly The Midwest Soybean And Corn Farmers,” Citing “Chaos” And “Uncertainty.” “For many, however, the intended benefits of Mr. Trump’s policies are not kicking in soon enough. ‘It is a dire time for American farmers, particularly the Midwest soybean and corn farmers,’ said Kirk Leeds, the chief executive of the Iowa Soybean Association. ‘The chaos, the uncertainty — right now we have so many unknowns that there’s not a lot of clarity about where we’re going.’” [New York Times, [1/27/26](#)]

New York Times: Iowa Crop Receipts Were On Track To Fall \$666 Million In 2025 And The State Faced Its “Highest Total [Farm Bankruptcies] Since 2020.” “Crop receipts in Iowa were on track to fall 4 percent, or \$666 million, in 2025 from last year and they are projected to hold steady this year, according to a report published last October by the Rural & Farm Finance Policy Analysis Center. There were 18 farm bankruptcies in the state through last October, the highest total since 2020. America’s rural economies have been struggling in recent years, and Iowa is no exception. Since 2021, Iowa’s economy has grown at an annual rate of about 1 percent while the United States has grown at an average annual rate of 2.5 percent.” [New York Times, [1/27/26](#)]

Iowa Public Radio: Several Farm Groups Said Trump’s “Trade Policy Will Have Harmful, Long-Lasting Effects.” “As the U.S. Supreme Court weighs the legality of President Trump’s tariffs, several farm groups say the administration’s trade policy will have harmful, long-lasting effects. Aaron Lehman is a farmer and president of the Iowa Farmers Union. [...] Last April, Trump declared a national emergency posed by trade deficits and announced taxes on imports from nearly every U.S. trading partner. [...] Lehman says the damage to trade partners and uncertainty makes it difficult to plan for the 2026 growing season, especially as production costs continue to outpace prices for corn and soybeans. [...] He says the administration’s approach undermines decades of investments by farmers to build relationships with buyers overseas, many of whom may switch to suppliers in other countries.” [Iowa Public Radio, [1/22/26](#)]

Wall Street Journal: Iowa Corn Growers Association President Said Trump’s Tariffs “Have Done More Harm Than Good In Farm Country.” Mueller, who is president of the Iowa Corn Growers Association, said that the president’s policies—such as tariffs—have done more harm than good in farm country and that Trump has largely taken their support for granted, adding that farmers are growing increasingly disillusioned with the administration. But he stopped short of saying Trump had lost their support.” [Wall Street Journal, [1/27/26](#)]

Associated Press: Trump’s Tariffs Were “Likely To Cost Iowa Farmers Their Biggest Market, China For The Hundreds Of Millions Of Bushels Of Soybeans They Grow Every Year.” “‘My son has cattle,’ she said in the crowded city hall chambers of Fort Madison, a Mississippi River port and railroad hub that typifies Iowa’s export economy. ‘I just want to know how the tariffs will affect someone like him, market-wise.’ Grassley hedged, suggesting Trump’s trade policy

could benefit producers if countries relax their import rules on U.S. beef or hurt them if they don't. But he finished by hinting at the most serious issue for Iowa. 'I think it's more grain than livestock,' he said. Trump's tariffs are likely to cost Iowa farmers their biggest market, China, for the hundreds of millions of bushels of soybeans they grow every year. And it's put Grassley, an anti-tariff warrior, in a difficult spot in a state inordinately dependent on agricultural exports as the nation's second-leading soybean producer." [Associated Press, [4/15/25](#)]

Berleen Wobeter, A Cattle, Corn And Soybean Producer In Tama County Described Trump's Trade Deal With Argentina As A "Growing Disaster On The Ground In Iowa," Adding "We're Not Feeling The Love, When Beef Imports From Argentina. [...] Because Somehow, Paying Farmers A Fair Price For Work To Raise High-Quality Beef In A Challenging Environment Is Asking Too Much." "The Iowa delegation's 'talking points are not an acceptable response for the growing disaster here on the ground in Iowa,' said Wobeter, a cattle, corn and soybean producer in Tama County. [...] Wobeter said Trump's often repeated declaration that 'we love our farmers' is meaningless. 'We're not feeling the love, when beef imports from Argentina... cut into our profits,' she added, 'Because somehow, paying farmers a fair price for work to raise high-quality beef in a challenging environment is asking too much.' Trump said his goal in signing the Feb. 6 order allowing Argentina to send an additional 80,000 metric tons of lean beef trimmings per year to the U.S. is to lower consumer prices. But Muhlbauer, a corn, soybean, cattle and hog producer in Crawford County, said the imports — valued around \$800 million — will have little effect other than boosting profits for meatpackers. The industry is dominated by four large companies with 85% of the market: JBS, Cargill, Tyson Foods and National Beef Packing Co. In November, Trump called on the U.S. Department of Justice to investigate the companies for 'potential collusion, price fixing and price manipulation.'" [Des Moines Register, [2/19/26](#)]

Families Paid An Estimated \$1,000 From Trump's Tariffs In 2025. "In 2025, the Trump tariffs amounted to an average tax increase per US household of \$1,000. After the IEEPA tariffs were struck down, we estimate the President's remaining new tariffs under Section 232 will increase taxes per US household by \$400 in 2026. The Section 122 tariffs will increase this household burden by about \$200 to \$600 in 2026." [Tax Foundation, [2/23/26](#)]

TRUMP'S CUTS TO MEDICAID THREATENED TO CUT \$9 BILLION IN FEDERAL HEALTH CARE FUNDING FOR IOWA AND THREATENED RURAL HOSPITALS

HEADLINE: "Trump's Cuts To Medicaid Threaten Services That Help Disabled People Live At Home" [Ottumwa Courier, [3/2/26](#)]

HEADLINE: "Rural Iowa Hospitals Brace For Big, Beautiful Bill's Medicaid Cuts. Some Could Close" [Des Moines Register, [9/16/25](#)]

HEADLINE: "Iowa's Rural Hospitals Brace For Impacts From Medicaid Changes" [Daily Iowan, [11/11/25](#)]

HEADLINE: "Iowa Officials Warn More Rural Hospitals May Close Under Proposed Medicaid Cuts." [Quad-City Times, [6/21/25](#)]

HEADLINE: "MercyOne Des Moines Announces Layoffs, Cites Federal Cuts." [Des Moines Register, [1/29/26](#)]

HEADLINE: "Rural Iowa Health Clinic Closes Following Funding Cuts." [Iowa News Service, [3/7/26](#)]

HEADLINE: "Iowa Rural Hospitals Could Be At Risk Under Trump's Tax Law." [We Are Iowa, [7/4/25](#)]

Daily Iowan: "The Reconciliation Bill [Changes]...Could Spell The End For Some Of Iowa's Rural Hospitals." "The reconciliation bill also limits states' ability to increase provider taxes, which states have leveraged to bring more Medicaid dollars into the state from federal matching funds. This decrease in revenue could spell the end for some of Iowa's rural hospitals, like Newton's hospital, which has had negative patient care margins and overall margins for the past three out of four years, according to data from the Center for Healthcare Quality and Payment Reform." [Daily Iowan, [11/11/25](#)]

- **Daily Iowan: Reconciliation Bill Changes To Medicaid Were "Expected To Ravage Rural Hospitals," Putting Two "At Risk Of Closure."** "This is coupled with \$50 billion in funding meant to transform rural health care over the next five years, which Iowa has already applied for, and rural health care experts say doesn't make up for the massive changes to the public insurance program. The changes are expected to send shockwaves through every corner of the health care sector. Still, they are expected to ravage rural hospitals, which rely on Medicaid reimbursement and already operate on razor-thin margins. Threats of cuts have landed two Iowa hospitals on a list of hospitals at risk of closure." [Daily Iowan, [11/11/25](#)]

Cuts Made By The One Big Beautiful Bill Reduced \$9 Billion In Federal Health Care Funding For Iowa. “The ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act’ makes drastic changes to the public health insurance program that could push Iowa medical providers that accept Medicaid to the brink, as they see an increase in uninsured patients, a decrease in Medicaid payments, and provisions allowing states to levy taxes on providers. All together, the changes spell a massive shift for the public insurance program that serves more than 70 million low-income and disabled Americans and over 500,000 Iowans. The changes are expected to reduce federal health care spending by \$1 trillion over a decade — \$9 billion just in Iowa — to pay for nearly \$4 trillion in tax cuts enshrined in the reconciliation bill.” [Daily Iowan, [11/11/25](#)]

KFF Analysis Found That The Big Beautiful Bill And The Affordable Care Act’s Enhanced Premium Tax Expiring Could Increase The Uninsured Population In Iowa By 110,000 People. “President Trump signed into law on July 4, 2025 a budget reconciliation package (formerly called the ‘One Big Beautiful Bill Act’) that will make significant changes to Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act (ACA) Marketplaces. The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that, relative to its estimates of insurance coverage prior to the law being enacted, the law will increase the number of people without health insurance in 2034 by 10 million, because of changes to Medicaid (7.5 million), the ACA Marketplaces (2.1 million), and other policies and interactions among different provisions (0.4 million). These legislative changes come at a time when enhanced premium tax credits for ACA Marketplace enrollees are set to expire later this year. When combining the impact of the reconciliation law with that of the expected expiration of the ACA’s enhanced premium tax credits, CBO estimates show that the number of uninsured people will increase by more than 14 million in 2034. That estimate does not account for the effects of the Trump administration’s ACA Marketplace Integrity and Affordability rule finalized earlier this year, so the overall change in the number of uninsured people could be even larger. [...] Iowa: Combined, the policies are projected to increase the uninsured population by roughly 110K people — a 3 percentage point change. This estimate could vary between 80K to 130K based on a 25% range of uncertainty. Of the total increase in the uninsured, 68K would become uninsured due to changes in Medicaid, 35K would become uninsured due to changes in the ACA, and 3.4K would become uninsured because of changes to Medicare and policy interactions.” [KFF, [8/20/25](#)]

TRUMP’S WAR IN IRAN COST AN ESTIMATED \$11.3 BILLION IN THE FIRST SIX DAYS ALONE AND RAISED GAS PRICES IN IOWA

Pentagon Officials Estimated The Cost Of The War Against Iran Exceeded \$11.3 Billion In The First Six Days. “Pentagon officials told lawmakers in a closed-door briefing on Capitol Hill on Tuesday that they estimated the cost of the war against Iran had exceeded \$11.3 billion in the first six days alone, according to three people familiar with the briefing. The estimate did not include many of the costs associated with the operation, such as the buildup of military hardware and personnel ahead of the first strikes. For that reason, lawmakers expect the number to grow considerably as the Pentagon continues to calculate the costs that accumulated just in the first week.” [New York Times, [3/11/26](#)]

Des Moines Register: Iowans “Will Pay The Higher [Gas] Prices” Due To The War In Iran, Which Had Already Caused Gas Prices To Go Up 63 Cents Per Gallon. “How much have Iowa gas prices increased since the Iran War began? The average gas price in Iowa on Feb. 25 — three days before U.S. and Israeli strikes in Iran began — was \$2.59 per gallon, according to AAA. Premium prices averaged \$3.46 and diesel \$3.53. As of March 12, the average gas price in Iowa is \$3.22, 63 cents higher than on Feb. 25 and higher than the average price of \$2.91 a year ago. For premium and diesel, gas prices are \$4.09 and \$4.42, respectively. Iowa gas prices remain below the national average of \$3.60. Iowa’s lowest average price in 2026 was \$2.31, recorded on Jan. 5, according to GasBuddy. But gas prices at many stations in Des Moines were below \$2 a gallon near the start of the year. [...] Will war in Iran decrease gas demand? Iowans, and most Americans, will pay the higher prices instead of changing their driving habits, based on past gas price spikes.” [Des Moines Register, [3/12/26](#)]

TUREK WOULD FIGHT BACK AGAINST TRUMP TO PROTECT HARDWORKING IOWANS

HEADLINE: “Democratic US Senate Hopeful Josh Turek Warns Of ‘Farmageddon’ Driven By ‘Chaotic’ Tariffs.” [Des Moines Register, [10/28/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “U.S. Senate Candidate Josh Turek Opposes Importing Beef From Argentina.” [KCCI, [10/27/25](#)]

HEADLINE: “Iowa Senate Candidate Josh Turek Criticized Federal Trade Policies Affecting Local Farmers.” [CBS 2 Iowa, [10/27/25](#)]

Josh Turek Pledged To “Put Iowa And Iowans First, Not Just Be A Rubber Stamp” In Response To Donald Trump’s Visit To Iowa, Criticizing “An Agenda That Rips Away Health Care, Hurts Our Farmers, And Makes It Harder For Working People.” “Donald Trump is in Iowa today to talk about affordability. Here are some things he probably won’t mention: We are one of only two states to be in economic decline in 2024. We rank 49th in economic growth and 48th in personal income growth. We are now leading the nation in farm foreclosures, a direct result of Trump’s

chaotic tariff war. Everywhere I go, lowans are saying things need to change. Washington is failing our communities, and it's time we elect a Senator who will put Iowa and lowans first, not just be a rubber stamp on an agenda that rips away health care, hurts our farmers, and makes it harder for working people to get by." [Turek4Iowa, Twitter/X, [1/27/26](#)]

Turek's Senate Campaign Platform Said He Would Fight To "End The Chaotic Tariffs That Are Sending Farms Toward A 1980s-Style Farm Crisis. "Iowa's farmers have been hit hard by the chaotic tariffs and trade policies coming out of Washington, supported by Ashley Hinson. Iowa farmers are the best in the world, and they deserve a Senator willing to fight for them to have a level playing field. [...] In the Senate, Josh will fight to: [...] End the chaotic tariffs that are sending farms toward a 1980s-style farm crisis." [Turek4Iowa, Platform, accessed [3/3/26](#)]

July 2025: Turek Criticized One Big Beautiful Bill Cuts To Medicaid As "Fundamentally Wrong." "Will proposed cuts to Medicaid hurt lowans who need it? State Representative Josh Turek says the [One Big Beautiful Bill] cuts will hit vulnerable lowans as well as hospitals and nursing homes. Proponents of the bill point to a \$50 billion rural hospital fund. 'Over the last five years, we've already lost 31 nursing homes and skilled nursing facilities,' Turek said. 'So we're already talking about a system that is underfunded — with critical shortages oftentimes — and we're talking about making significant cuts to that. It's fundamentally wrong.'" [3 News Now, [7/3/25](#)]

Turek Said "The First Thing That We've Got To Do" To Solve The Health Care Crisis Was To Undo The One Big Beautiful Bill's Health Care And SNAP Cuts. "As health care access continues to worsen in rural Iowa, what solutions would you fight for in the Senate? The first thing that we've got to do is we've got to undo the damage that we've done, undoing the [One] Big, Beautiful Bill, where you've got a trillion dollars of cuts to people's health care and to SNAP benefits. Another place where we need to fully fund our Medicaid and our Medicare system. [...] And certainly as a U.S. Senator, this is what I'll be fighting for — that every single lowan, every single American has access to affordable and accessible health care and affordable, accessible pharmaceuticals." [Daily lowan, [12/10/25](#)]