

DEAR ABBY

Wife tells man he must accept her ongoing fidelity

DEAR ABBY: My wife is having an affair with an old flame from when she was in high school. He was just released from prison after serving time for murdering. I have forgiven her, but I told her to stop the contact. She said she'd rather divorce me than do that; I would have to live with what's going on. I love my wife, so I compromise



JEANNE PHILLIPS

for now.

She now has put me out of the marital bed, and I am not allowed to touch or hug her. I still do my husband-type chores. Please, I need your advice. — **SIDE-LINED IN PENNSYLVANIA**

DEAR SIDELINED: I am sorry for your pain, of which I'm sure there is plenty. By ousting you from the marriage bed, your wife has effectively deserted you. You may forgive her for the ongoing affair, but tolerating the status quo will not save your marriage. It is important that you seek legal counsel now to help you in the months ahead, because you are going to need it.

DEAR ABBY: A year ago, my husband and I loaned my son and his wife \$6,000 to pay for the doctors to flip my daughter-in-law's baby so she could have a natural childbirth. Since then, she has been extremely rude and verbally abusive to me. I am not allowed to visit or post any pictures of the baby, even though her mom stayed with them for three months. How do I ask them for our money back? — **SECOND THOUGHTS IN MINNESOTA**

DEAR SECOND THOUGHTS: It isn't unusual with a first baby for a new mother to want her mother with her rather than her MIL. Was there a written agreement that you would be repaid the money

you gave your son and his wife for the delivery? If there wasn't, you may be out of luck. I wish you had mentioned why your daughter-in-law's attitude toward you has changed so radically. Until you understand the reason, there will be no chance to heal this breach.

DEAR ABBY: I have been friends with my neighbor "Mary" for 30 years. She has developed Alzheimer's disease and needs constant supervision. Her husband refuses to place her in a facility, even though family members tell him he needs to. I have watched Mary a few times, and it was nerve-racking. She wanders off and undoes anything that we did.

Mary's husband came over alone recently and told me he had hired a professional to watch her. Then he offered me \$2 an hour less than the professional. (The professional has never watched her.) I told him I couldn't do it and that he needs the professional. He is now telling friends that I am no longer a "friend" because I wasn't there when needed. He barely talks to me anymore and doesn't wave when I drive by. What can I do? — **OUT OF FAVOR IN FLORIDA**

DEAR OUT: Your neighbor has a crushing 24-hour responsibility on his shoulders, but he shouldn't be blaming you for your inability to relieve it. Do not expect him to smile and wave, and don't be sorry you refused his offer. What you must do now is explain to these mutual friends what happened — that you watched Mary a few times but managing her was too stressful for you, and that is why her husband is mad at you.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



CHRIS ZOELLER, MASON CITY GLOBE GAZETTE

Hogs fill a pen inside a confinement near Garner, Iowa, in a file photo. Massachusetts prohibits the sale of pork from livestock that were "confined in a cruel manner." Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird is leading a coalition of 24 states asking the U.S. Supreme Court to declare the restrictions unconstitutional.

Bird leads challenge of Massachusetts pork restrictions

LEE-GAZETTE DES MOINES BUREAU

DES MOINES — Iowa Attorney General Brenna Bird is leading a coalition of 24 states in a brief asking the U.S. Supreme Court to rule Massachusetts pork restrictions unconstitutional.

The state's pork restrictions prohibit the sale of pork from livestock that were "confined in a cruel manner."

Bird argues that the law disqualifies Iowa pork producers from conducting business in Massachusetts, which she says will result in family farmers needing to sell their operations.



Bird

"Massachusetts does not get to tell Iowans how to raise their pork," Bird said in a statement. "Iowa is the leading pork-producing state in the nation and is

home to family farms that Iowans have passed down through families for generations. With this pork ban, Iowa farmers are left with two drastic options: pay the extreme costs to comply with red tape that could drive them out of

business or be banned from selling their pork."

The brief also argues that the Massachusetts pork ban violates the U.S. Constitution because states cannot pass laws that target raising hogs in other states.

The coalition also includes the attorneys general of Alabama, Alaska, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Texas, Utah, West Virginia and Wyoming.

Energy

From A1

Julie Voeck, a lobbyist for the company, said state tax incentives would help position Iowa as a "leader" in nuclear energy generation. The company is recommissioning the Duane Arnold Energy Center in Linn County, which Voeck said is expected to bring over \$9 billion in investments to Iowa.

"Investment in nuclear energy is a significant investment. It requires a lot of capital," Voeck said. "State tax policies are important elements in consideration for where investors will make their investment decisions with capital."

The subject of nuclear power has been addressed at local government meetings. Last summer, the Woodbury County Board of Supervisors approved a new ordinance regulating potential nuclear power plants in the county. There have been no known proposals to build nuclear power plants in the county, and county officials described it as a proactive measure. The county's

Zoning Commission had spent the previous year reviewing the zoning rules governing nuclear power in Woodbury County.

"People want to come to Woodbury County, but the issue is we can't meet the electrical demand," Supervisor Dan Bittinger said during the nuclear power discussions last July.

The Woodbury County meetings attracted considerable public feedback, with concerns about nuclear waste, nuclear fallout and health aspects.

Rep. Shannon Lundgren, a Republican from Peosta, expressed support for the bill, but said she would like to see the fiscal impact the tax incentives would have on Iowa.

Democratic Rep. Eric Gjerde, of Cedar Rapids, also backed the bill, but suggested lawmakers add a sunset for the incentives for nuclear energy projects.

Similar to the House bill, Senate Study Bill 3181 would create sales and use tax exemptions. But nuclear energy projects that benefit from the incentives would be

required to make a contribution to public universities in the state to help establish and maintain nuclear engineering programs.

These projects would need to contribute a minimum for 5% of the aggregate value of a tax exemption to public universities. The same requirements would apply to "web search portal" businesses or data centers, which already receive state tax exemptions.

Iowa State University discontinued its nuclear engineering program in the mid-1990s. But Republican Sen. Dan Dawson, of Council Bluffs, said renewed interest in nuclear energy generation and changes in federal policy will reinvigorate the industry in Iowa, which will need a state workforce pipeline.

He also said companies benefiting from state tax exemptions should be required to invest more in Iowa.

"Perpetual exemptions have got to come to a stop in the state without more buy-in and more of an investment into the state than what we currently see right now,"

Dawson said.

Jillian Carlson, a state relations officer for the Iowa Board of Regents, said if the legislation is implemented, universities would need to start with a nuclear engineering minor, which would come with an initial \$3 million price tag to hire three faculty members and establish lab space.

But technology groups, including the Technology Association of Iowa and Microsoft, warned lawmakers that the bill's data center contribution requirements would drive those projects away from the state and to other states with better incentives.

"This 5% contribution tied to the value of a tax exemption could greatly reduce Iowa's competitiveness for future energy and infrastructure projects," Sydney Gangestad, representing the Technology Association of Iowa, said. "Industry feedback indicates that this type of ongoing cost gives companies pause when they're considering evaluating whether or not they would like to come to the state of Iowa."

Sierra Club lobbyist Pam Mackey-Taylor expressed concern about growing the nuclear industry in the state, arguing that nuclear energy plants come with negative environmental impacts for surrounding communities.

Democratic Sen. Herman Quirnbach, of Ames, refused to sign off on advancing the bill to committee, expressing hesitancy towards what he sees as the "government trying to pick winners and losers in the marketplace through tax subsidies."

"If this is really a project that is going to generate enough economic benefit to fulfill the promises, or at least visions spoken today, I think they should be able to finance itself," Quirnbach said.

Dawson and the other subcommittee member, Sen. Jeff Taylor, a Republican from Sioux Center, signed off to advance the legislation.

Dawson called the bill a "work in progress" and said he will continue to take feedback on how to strengthen it.

The Journal's Caitlin Yamada contributed reporting.

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PUBLISHER: Lee Enterprises

EDITOR: Dave Dreeszen 712-293-4211
ddreeszen@siouxcityjournal.com

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The Sioux City Journal (USPS: 497240), a Lee Enterprises Newspaper, is published Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays at 2802 CASTLES GATE DR., SIOUX CITY IA 51106. Periodicals Postage Paid at Sioux City, IA, and at additional mailing offices. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to 500 E 3RD ST, DAVENPORT, IA 52801.

PRICING

Sioux City Journal is a Lee Enterprises Newspaper and is published online daily, and three days per week in print (Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays), except for New Year's Day, Martin Luther King Jr.'s Day, Presidents Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving and Christmas when it is only published online. The subscription price includes all applicable sales tax. Print subscriptions will be charged an additional fee for the convenience of having the paper delivered. You will be notified of the amount and frequency of any delivery charge at the time you register for a Print subscription. All delivery charges are subject to change. Former subscribers who register for a new subscription will be charged any balance due on their prior subscription in addition to the amount due for the new subscription. To avoid delivery charges, call 1-800-397-2213 to arrange pickup of your paper at a local distribution center. A nonrefundable account setup fee will be charged to qualifying new starts. We reserve the right to change your subscription rate at any time. Contact 1-800-397-2213 or visit siouxcityjournal.com/services to manage your subscription.

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