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ACLU of Iowa Calls Effort to Impeach Judge Undignified and Shameful

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DES MOINES - The ACLU of Iowa on Thursday released a statement in regard to the effort to impeach Iowa District Court Judge Robert Hanson. The following can be attributed to Ben Stone, Executive Director:

The effort to impeach Iowa District Court Robert Hanson is a grossly political maneuver that is beneath the dignity of our state and its proud tradition of responsible governance.

Judges have a duty to rule on cases which come before them. Judge Hanson is the first judge in Iowa history ever to be asked if the law forbidding same sex marriages is constitutional. His ruling is based on a perfectly reasonable legal interpretation of the Iowa Constitution. He did his job, and now his critics want his head.

There are some who tend to label any ruling they don't like as so-called "judicial activism" and call for impeachment of the judge. This type of reaction is undignified and shameful, for it represents an attempt to intimidate our judges into ruling out of fear, rather than out of legal reasoning.

Nearly all Iowans can name a court ruling they don't agree with, but you don't see them demanding that the judge or judges be impeached. Iowans are better than that.

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