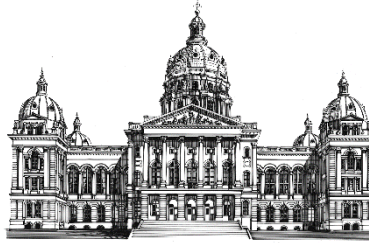


TONY BISIGNANO
STATE SENATOR
Fifteenth District
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The Senate
State of Iowa
Ninety-First General Assembly
STATEHOUSE
Des Moines, IA 50319

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Agriculture
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Ways and Means, *Ranking Member*

October 22, 2025

Office of Auditor of State
Room 111
State Capitol Building
Des Moines, Iowa 5039

Dear Auditor Sand,

I am writing to formally request an audit of the Iowa Department of Education relating to procedures for conducting background checks on applicants for licensure, including their use of third-party contractual agreements, as authorized under Iowa Code 11.5C.

Recent revelations regarding the licensing of Ian Roberts—who was approved for licensure by the Board of Education Examiners (BOEE), a board under the authority of the Iowa Department of Education, despite not being a U.S. citizen—raise serious concerns about the integrity and effectiveness of the Board's licensing processes. This incident represents a glaring oversight and suggests a potential failure in either the background check protocol itself or in the implementation and review process.

Ensuring that educators in our public schools meet all legal and professional requirements, including citizenship or work authorization where applicable, is not only a matter of regulatory compliance but also one of public trust. The public deserves confidence that our state educator licensing body is operating with due diligence and accountability.

Pursuant to your authority under Iowa Code 11.5C, I respectfully urge your office to initiate an audit of the Iowa Department of Education and BOEE's licensing and background check process. An audit of the fees that are collected and any state and federal dollars that are used for the background check and licensing process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'TB', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Tony Bisignano
State Senator, Des Moines