**Business Record Forty under 40**

RE: Nomination Form

To Whom it May Concern:

It would be an honor to be part of the prestigious Forty under 40 class of 2017. I would be a good fit for this class because my career accomplishments and civic engagement are reflective of what the Business Record looks for in its class members.

I graduated from the University of Northern Iowa with a BA in Political Science and then went on to graduate from the University Of Iowa College of Law. I was fortunate enough to land an amazing job straight out of law school at the Iowa Farm Bureau Federation, where I gained invaluable experience from some of the most talented lobbyist in the state. I worked primarily to protect farmers and renewable fuels.

I took my experience and went on to become the Director of Public Policy and Senior Staff Attorney for the Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence, a non-profit organization that helps victims of domestic violence. I helped lobby to shape laws in Iowa so that they were weighted in favor of victims of domestic violence. For example, I was able to get a law passed that created a new crime of strangulation. This new law made the crime a felony rather that the simple misdemeanor assault that it had previously been charged as. I also represented victims of domestic violence in district court to help them obtain protective orders, divorces, and maintain custody of their children. I went before the Iowa Court of Appeals on behalf of victims to ensure that already existing laws were interpreted in their favor. This was the hardest most gut wrenching job I have ever had. In working on behalf of victims I realized that there was more that we could do as a state to ensure the safety of everyone, which is what propelled me to my current position as the Policy Advisor for the Iowa Department of Public Safety.

In my current role, I work every day with the legislative and executive branches to help law enforcement better do their job and to increase public safety for everyone in Iowa. In this day and age when law enforcement officers are under attack it is important that they have a voice and are protected. With DPS being one of the state’s largest agencies, I also work with legislators to prioritize our $92 million departmental budget. One of my biggest accomplishments in my current role was obtaining permission and funding for the state to sign into a contract to build a statewide radio system that will allow all public safety officials to have clear radio communication with one another. Without this new radio infrastructure law enforcement are be unable to use their radios to call for help in emergency situations.

I am also a voting member of the Public Safety Advisory Board (PSAB) which advises the legislature on recommended action on public safety related legislation.

I have gained experience in the private, public, and the non-profit sectors. Overall in my career I have worked very hard to accomplish the passage of major legislation that has made Iowa a safer and better place to live, which is why I would like to be considered as part of the 2017 Forty under 40 class.

Respectfully,

Amber L. Markham

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