

Team Taylor



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Just For Clarity!



Setting the Record Straight on the Issues

The State takeover of the Milwaukee County's Income Maintenance program will not be a part of the state budget, but as separate, independent legislation that will go through the entire law-making process.

4th Senate District



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF MARCH 02 — MARCH 06

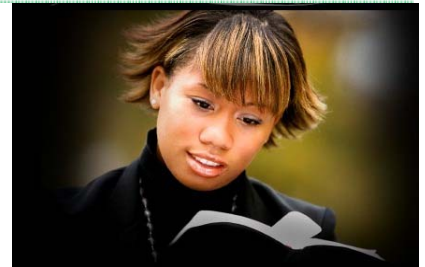
Welcome to my Legislative Update!

I'm State Senator Lena C. Taylor and every week my staff and I distribute copies of my legislative update to help people learn about the State Legislature. If you wish to receive a copy of my update, you'll e-mail my office at sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov or call 608-266-5810.

Get a Free Education and Get Paid for It!!!!!!

I am very excited to bring you news of an incredible opportunity in education. I'm talking about free education and getting paid for it. Yes, you aren't hearing things, I said, free education and get paid for it!

The Master of Art in Management program at Wake Forest University in North Carolina is designed for liberal arts majors only. After graduation and working for approximately two years, all MA graduates are eligible to apply to Wake Forest as part of the MA/MBA joint degree program and get the MBA in one year. The Corporate Fellowship is a scholarship created for diverse students pursuing the MA degree.



The Corporate Fellowship provides full tuition and a \$21,000 stipend to cover living expenses. The program consists of a practicum that will allow the student to work with a mentor (high level executive at the sponsor corporation) and provide professional development. It is the corporations goal to "groom" and hire a top candidate from a diverse background for their organization.

If you or someone you know is interested in this program, please contact my office at (414) 342-7176. Please spread the word of this opportunity; it is not often that one like this comes along.

Proactive Approach to Housing Crisis

As leaders and elected officials, my colleagues and I are continually grappling with ways to get our collective arms around the size and shape of our housing crisis. This has not been easy. However, I have been working diligently with stakeholders to find creative ways to address the mortgage mess but more importantly, prevent a re-occurrence and improve quality of life especially for the hard working citizens of our state.

This week, I drafted legislation that created a program that provides tax credits to employers that assist their employees with expenses related to homeownership and rental assistance. Amounts paid or incurred by an employer for an employee for qualified housing expenses through this program, up to \$10,000 would not be included in the employee's gross income for state income and franchise tax purposes. Qualified housing expenses paid by an employer include: Down payment and closing costs assistance, reduced-interest rate mortgages, contributions to an employee homeownership savings plans provided by employers to employees to assist in securing affordable housing near the workplace.

The responsibility for administering this program statewide will rest with WHEDA, while the City of Milwaukee Department of City Development will administer the program in the city. Each agency will review applications submitted by sponsors (non-profit corporation with a purpose of providing homeownership education and chartered by NeighborWorks America) and provide a reservation of tax credits to successful applicants.

Etiquette & Networking



Office Party Don't

Don't drink too much:
Alcohol lowers your inhibitions and alters your judgment. It can make you do things you may regret. Even if you think you can handle your alcohol quite well, one mixed drink or a glass of wine at the office party should be your limit. Remember, perception is everything!

Legislatively Speaking!

Base Budget

"The base budget for the state is the first year appropriations of the previous budget doubled. The base budget is considered the starting point for the new budget just introduced."

Minority Report

It's no secret that the state of Wisconsin has had trouble meeting its minority participation requirements on contracts. Currently, that goal is 5%. I.E. 5% of the state's total contract dollar expenditures are required to go to firms that have been certified by the Department of Commerce's Minority Business Enterprise program(MBE).



The MBE program requires at least 51% minority, and or, protected class ownership of the business. No other non-minority interests may be affiliated with that firm in order for it to meet the full criteria for certification.

However, changes are proposed. Often times, minority owned business do not have the prodigious amounts of capital and capacity to compete for large scale state contracts. A proposal in the new biennial budget would allow firms that are 30% minority owned to be certified. Also, there is a second provision that would allow for outside investors to purchase equity in minority firms. The sale of these shares would increase the capacity of a firm that would otherwise be too small to compete.

Proponents say that by expanding the guidelines for the MBE program, the hope is to extent additional opportunities to our local Wisconsin firms and help them compete not just locally but globally as well. What do you think of these changes? Should I support or oppose them? Let me know!

Sign of the Times

The University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee hosted it 39th annual Diversity Career Day on Thursday, March 5, in their student union.

In attendance was a vast array of companies, schools and branches of the military announcing employment or educational opportunities to the thousands of job seekers in attendance. The job seekers looked like traditional job seekers, young, diverse and looking for a career they can be proud of. In addition to the many young people looking for employment, there were many middle aged, baby boomers at the fair as well looking for employment.



I came across one of these baby boomers who explained that she was a nurse for 30 years, and now she is looking for employment. This is truly an unfortunate sign of the times. Hope is on the way, but patience is required. With all of the stimulus dollars that are coming, jobs will become available, and we must maintain a position of optimism that this economic down turn will soon take an upswing. Patience is a virtue and patience will soon have economic value.



The Week Ahead:

Saturday

-WI Journal of Law Symposium

Sunday

-Greater New Birth Church

Monday

-Policy Work

Tuesday

-Greater New Birth Church

Wednesday

-Justice Reinvestment

Thursday

-DOC Budget Briefing

Friday

-Sister 2 sister Mentor Meeting

Quote of the Week

"I am not interested in picking up crumbs of compassion thrown from the table of someone who considers himself my master. I want the full menu of rights."

-Desmond Tutu

State Budget Process Continues with Public Input

The Joint Committee on Finance is set to take up deliberations and public input on the Wisconsin 2009-10 biennial budget soon. The committee will receive agency briefings from every agency in state government on the week of March 16th. The budget is a 58 billion dollar spending plan for the state that takes effect on July 1 of this year.



To receive the input of constituents, the Finance Committee will travel around the state for 6 public hearings on the budget. In the Milwaukee metro area we will hold our hearing on Wednesday, March 25th from 10-4pm at State Fair Park. The hearing will be in Banquet room #2 in the Tommy G. Thomson Youth Center Building. This will likely be the only opportunity for Milwaukee area residents to comment on the state budget.

Following those hearings, the committee will be meeting in executive session, to work on amendments to the bill and propose changes to the Governor's position. I expect that the committee will be done with its work by mid-late May and the Legislature can act on the bill and have it to the Governor by June 20th.

Intern Spotlight!

My name is Erica Byer and this is my first semester interning at Senator Taylor's office. I am a senior at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and am currently a political science major and a criminal justice certificate student. Following graduation in May I hope to move back to Michigan, where I grew up and take some time off to travel and apply to law school.



Alan D. Charles
-Intern Manager-

Since I have been a student, I have volunteered at the Salvation Army and also participated in local after school education programs in the Madison area. On campus, I am a member of the Legal Studies Association, UNICEF, and the Habitat for Humanity organizations. In my spare time I enjoy spending time with my friends and family, reading, watching movies and occasionally working out.

My internship in Senator Taylor's office has allowed me to experience state government first-hand which has heightened my already keen interest in politics and the criminal justice system. Interning at the Capitol has allowed me to enhance my understanding of the policy-making process, while also allowing me the opportunity of working with concerned constituents. All in all, I am looking forward to the rest of my time in Senator Taylor's office as it has proven a rewarding experience thus far.

"Erica has a sharp intellect and wit. Match that with her easy-going personality and it's a winning combination."

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www.senatortaylor.com

WI Legislature Site:

www.legis.state.wi.us/

Judiciary Committee:

<http://www.legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/sen04/news/J&C/>

Justice Reinvestment:

<http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lc/committees/study/2008/JRIO/index.htm>

Joint Committee on Finance Site:

www.legis.state.wi.us/lfb/jfc.html

Legislative Hotline

1-800-362-WISC

Community Events

43rd Annual Shamrock Club St. Patrick Parade

What: Parade to celebrate St. Patrick's Day. It is the Largest parade in WI.

When: Saturday, March 14, 2009
12:00 PM

Where: Parade Starts at 3rd and Wisconsin, and marches east along Wisconsin Avenue.

SDC Energy Assistance Program

What: Get help covering your annual home energy costs

When: Now-5/15/09

Where: A variety of locations around the Milwaukee area

Cost: Free

For info on where to go and what to bring, visit:

www.cr-sdc.org/Programs/EnergyAssistance.html

If an organization you belong to has an event you feel should be included in the Community Events section please [e-mail](mailto:senator@legis.wisconsin.gov) me.

Do you have a computer? **Do you need help with food, prescriptions, or other services?** Use www.access.wi.gov to see if you and your family are eligible for a variety of state-sponsored services designed to assist citizens in procuring essential resources.

Useful Resources

Child Support Enforcement
414-278-5160

Elderlink
414-289-6874

Governor Doyle
414-227-4344

Employment Ways to Work Program
414-906-2820

Senior Care Insurance
1-800-657-208

Senior Law
(414) 278-1222
(414) 278-7722

Energy Assistance
414-906-2800

Rent Assistance
414-286-5678

Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups Prescription Drug Assistance
1-866-456-8211

Food Assistance
414-733-0211

Bureau of Child Welfare
414-220-SAFE

W-2
1-800-722-2295

City of Wauwatosa
414-479-8900

Badger Care Insurance
1-800-362-3002

Milwaukee Common Council
414-286-2221

City of Glendale
414-228-1700

Milwaukee County Economic Support
414-289-6000

Congresswoman Gwen Moore
414-297-1140

SENATE CONTACTS
Sergeant-at-Arms Office
608-266-1801

Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline
414-278-1240

Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

Human Resources
608-264-8471

Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451

Senate Chief Clerk's Office
608-266-2517