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Just For Clarity!



Setting the Record Straight on the Issues

The state takeover of the Income Maintenance program in Milwaukee County is an initiative begun by the Governor and is within his power to do so. The Legislature has a role in ensuring workers rights are protected.

4th Senate District



LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF APRIL 06 — APRIL 10

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.

A Means to an End

The past week has been filled with new, positive developments in the areas of housing, job creation and economic development. Out of a need to stimulate the economy and ensure that hard working families who are hardest hit in these austere times find some relief, the federal government announced details of funding from the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) for single family housing. The housing programs finance new or improved housing for very low-to moderate income families. An estimated 42,500 jobs will be created or saved nationwide by this effort.



In Wisconsin, WHEDA will be the state entity that will be administering these funds with supervision from the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Some of the programs that will receive direct funding support include the Assisted Housing Stability Program that will provide grants and loans to property owners who receive project-based assistance and to enable energy efficiency retrofits and green investments.

In a related development, Governor Doyle announced that the state will receive more than \$6.7 million in ARRA funds for lead abatement and healthy home programs that is expected to generate \$5.47 million in construction spending and 60 lead abatement construction related jobs.

Since 1996, more than 44,000 Wisconsin children have been poisoned by lead paint.

Income Maintenance Takeover

I have recently introduced legislation, Senate Bill 161, relating to the administration of Milwaukee County's Income Maintenance programs. Currently, the State of Wisconsin is taking over the administration of Income Maintenance programs; these programs include BadgerCare Plus, the food stamp program, and the program that pays for funeral, burial, and cemetery expenses for persons whose estates are insufficient to pay those expenses.

Senate Bill 161 allows the state employees at the Department of Health Services and the Department of Children and Families to supervise the county employees. Additionally, any county worker who applies and is hired for a state position will be allowed to retain his or her county pension and consideration of their years of service for state leave policy. The Senate Bill also requires Milwaukee County to provide \$3.59 million to the state of Wisconsin, annually, to contribute to the cost of funding Income Maintenance administration. Other counties currently do this, as well.

When the state returns the responsibility of Income Maintenance administration back to Milwaukee County, there needs to be a clear transition plan as to how to best make the shift. Senate Bill 169 requests that the state and county put together a plan within the context of a clear timeline, which would transition the Income Maintenance administration back to Milwaukee County.

Etiquette & Networking



Office Party Don't

“Don't bring uninvited guests. Often office parties are for employees only. Don't assume it's okay to bring your significant other or someone else without asking first.”

Legislatively Speaking!

Budget Motions

“During the budget process, motions are made in committee to amend the budget bill. These motions are not amendments in and of themselves, but rather one of many changes that will be introduced in one large budget substitute amendment.”

Justice Reinvestment

Over the next ten years, Wisconsin is set to spend 2.5 billion dollars more on prison building and operation, according to the Justice Reinvestment Initiative team from the Council on State Governments. The analysts working in Wisconsin projected this cost along with a 25% growth in prison population over the next ten years. Milwaukee County alone currently contributes 37% of the prison population at a cost of 200 million dollars a year.

The numbers are staggering in Wisconsin, and in even in Milwaukee. A portion of the city's north side contributes the highest number of persons into the prison system. The “triangle” in Milwaukee, an area south of Burleigh St, west of State Highway 57 and northeast of Fond du Lac Ave, has one of the highest violent crime rates in the state, and of the highest number of re-entering offenders placed in this area. In addition, Wisconsin is showing extremely high numbers of offenders that need mental health treatment that is going unmet.

I encourage you to view the results of this analysis for yourself at <http://justicereinvestment.org/states/wisconsin>. Over the next two weeks, in preparation for the budget process, the committee will be looking at the recommendations that will be acted on to help cut Wisconsin's growing prison cost.



How Can Change Come

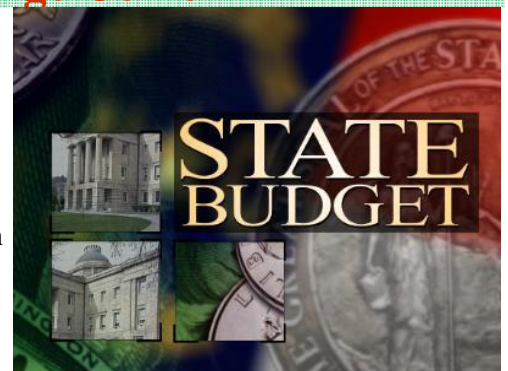
Congratulations to the recently elected! It is a tremendous sacrifice to run for any office, and a great honor to be victorious in that quest.

This past Tuesday, April 7, we had several races that we had the opportunity to vote for. In that, how can we feel represented when we ourselves in the city of Milwaukee do not participate in the process at a respectable rate? Yet again, our participation numbers in the largest city in the state are dismal at best.

What will it take to get our residents to appreciate the process? The consequence of our absence can be failed and lack-luster leadership.

With a challenged school district, the highest rate of incarceration in the nation and foreclosures spiraling out of control, now more than ever our voices need to be heard.

Democracy, assumes that the majority wins, but how can this be true if only a fraction vote? How can change come in government, if we are not willing to change ourselves?





The Week Ahead:

Saturday

-Greater New Birth

Sunday

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Monday

-Policy Debrief

Tuesday

-Judiciary Committee

Wednesday

-Meeting with Secretary Timberlake

Thursday

-Transportation Committee

Friday

-Judicial Council Meeting

Quote of the Week

"Being the boss anywhere is lonely. Being a female boss in a world of mostly men is especially so."

Robert Frost

Help is at Your Fingertips

The number of foreclosures is alarming and becoming a major issue for cities around the nation, including residents of the 4th Senate district including Glendale, Wauwatosa and Milwaukee. Calls from constituents seem to be growing daily with concerns on issues ranging from sub-prime and predatory lending, foreclosure rescue scams and occurrences of neighborhood blight. Help may seem like a four letter word, but can be much more than a reality to some, if people knew what steps to take when in need of assistance. I encourage residents to take sight in the assistance that is right at their fingertips.



By contacting my office; my staff and I can assist residents with issues to combat the possible loss of their home and helping them to gain access to a number of services which may be available to them. At times, I am contacted by constituents when they feel they are at the end of their rope and have no one to turn too. Sometimes people are misinformed or never informed of the resources that are available to them and other avenues they can use to prevent a foreclosure or overcome predatory scams of lending companies.

It is important for people to know that if you are facing a foreclosure, your housing concerns may seem out of your hand, or you may need advice on an issue, whether big or small, you can contact my office at anytime as I am always here to serve the needs of my constituents.

Intern Spotlight!

Dear Interns and Volunteers,

Our task is not a simple one, not one that is accomplished through mediocrity or half-heartedness. We work towards an elusive ideal—to fairly and sufficiently represent the people. This requires dedication and excellence. The work demands that you bring all the essence of yourselves to the table, and you do so.

So I thank you, all of you, for the dedication that you show and the excellence of your work. I greatly appreciate your efforts, without which we all would have faltered long ago. Keep up the great work.

Senator Lena C. Taylor



Summer Internship

Looking for an internship?
A way to get involved?

Call my office and speak to
Alan Charles:
414-342-7176

We would love to help you get involved in your community.

Senator Taylor's Office Info:

Madison



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Senator Taylor's Website:

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

Fatherhood Initiative Focus Group

What: Discussion about what fatherhood is and prepares future/current fathers for the role.

When: Every Thursday 3:00-5:00PM

Where: Project Return
2821 N 4th Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212
(414) 374-8033

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:Sen.Taylor@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