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THROUGH THE LENS



Senator Taylor makes a point at unveiling of the Health Youth Act in the Senate Parlor

4th Senate District LEGISLATIVE UPDATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR

WEEK OF OCTOBER 05—OCTOBER 09

Welcome to my Legislative Update!

I'm State Senator Lena C. Taylor and this is my legislative update. If you do not wish to receive my weekly update, please let me know at sen.taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov.

-Healthy Youth Act Hearing Draws Praise, Shouting-

The Healthy Youth Act was heard by the Assembly Committee on Education this past week. As an author of the bill, testimony was given stressing the importance of medically accurate, age appropriate sexual education when offered in our schools. Almost 2-1, those that came to testify were supportive of the bill and its passage.

Unfortunately, a Milwaukee radio station had been very wrong in its assertions about the bill. The false claim that portions of the curriculum were not open to parents was quickly rebutted, but it changed the tone of the whole day. It is unfortunate that one polarizing special interest group essentially lied and that led to a shouting match in the committee.

The Committee chairwoman Sondy Pope-Roberts (D-Verona) is to be commended for her firm hand in keeping the committee room in order and not letting political shouting matches destroy our open debate.

- Crackdown on Drunk Driving -

This week, the Senate Committee on Judiciary, Corrections, Insurance, Campaign Finance Reform, & Housing took a major step forward in it's work on drunk driving reporting out SB 66, an omnibus bill that increases penalties, strengthens prevention tools, expands treatment plans, and provides a funding mechanism for the bill. That bill was the product of long negotiations and lengthy discussions.

The bill will make certain 4th offense OWI convictions felonies, increase jail terms for third offense, require the use of Ignition Interlock Devices (IID) on the first offense in certain cases, and expands the popular Winnebago County SAFE STREETS treatment program statewide. The bill also will allow a judge to use probation as a tool to ensure compliance with sentencing and sobriety orders.

SB 66 was amended to be very similar to the bill the Assembly passed a few weeks ago (AB 283). While the penalty structures, treatment options, and prevention tools went built on the Assembly bill, the Senate took the unique step to fund the bill and responsibly pay for any action we take on the issue. The Senate approved two major funding sources — increasing the liquor excise tax by 50 cents a liter and increasing the fee charged to persons convicted of crimes by \$143. Overall, these increases are appropriate as they reflect a product tied to the crime and access fees to the offenders for the crime.

The bill is now going to the Joint Committee on Finance and then to the Senate floor.

MANNERS MOMENT



Dana World-Patterson
Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

Do you have a niche for small talk or are you uncomfortable striking up a conversation with strangers? Help is here! You want them to talk about themselves. Begin by asking open ended questions that require more than yes or no responses. Be prepared to talk about a few current news stories. Maintain lightheartedness, thank them and move to the

FROM THE BAR

Equity of Redemption

The right of a mortgagor (person owing on a loan or debt against their real property), after commencement of foreclosure proceedings, to "cure" his/her default by making delinquent payments. The mortgagor also must pay all accumulated costs as well as the delinquency to keep the property.

- Freedom of Choice of Faith Act Soon Coming -

The unfortunate case of the Neumann family has brought attention back to the issue of the election of faith-based healing in place of medical or surgical treatment for the cure of illness or disease in children. The drafted bill modifies current law to emphasize and strengthen the protection of the child. I will soon circulate this bill around the legislature and ask for co-sponsors to the legislation.

Current law provides parents or guardians who elect to use spiritual healing in lieu of medical treatment for their child with an exemption to prosecution. Furthermore, under current law, individuals who choose Christian Science treatment cannot be compelled to submit to medical or surgical treatment.

The drafted bill presents four distinct changes to the law in an effort to provide more protection to the child. The bill repeals the exemption of prosecution for parents or guardians who choose spiritual healing in lieu of medical treatment for their child. The bill mandates the use of medical treatment as required when a child is taken into custody due to the presence of immediate danger in his or her surroundings. The bill creates an affirmative defense for the parents or guardians when their conduct is in good faith and is a reasonable use of spiritual, prayer or religious treatment. However, the burden of proof is placed on the defendant. Lastly, the bill provides direction to the presiding judge by outlining nine factors relevant to determining the reasonable use of spiritual treatment in lieu of medical treatment.

I anticipate that there will be a good healthy debate going on in the Legislature on this topic.

- A snapshot of two bills moving forward -

Protections for Victims of Rape

A new bill proposal aims to keep rape victims feeling safe and comfortable reporting the crimes committed against them. Sadly, rape victims are sometimes too scared or intimidated to report the crime committed against them. Keeping rape victim's personal and identifying information confidential is a good way to keep victims feeling safe. Currently, a rape victim's sexual past can be admitted into evidence in their sexual assault case. This new bill will prevent that from happening – thereby allowing the jury and judge to solely focus on the incident in question and not have their opinion muddled by events not dealing with the perpetrator. This bill is currently circulating around the capitol looking for fellow legislators' support.

SB-322 Independent Party Ballots

We are working to create more unbiased elections throughout the state by standardizing the Independent Candidate statements on ballots.

Independent Candidates have been able to state a brief sentence on the ballot in order to better help the voter understand the Candidate's beliefs and guiding principles. Until now this statement has not been standardized. Some ballots receive no restrictions while others do. With this enacted, the statements will be limited to five words or less. Each Independent Candidate will receive the same benefit from a set number of words.

HEALTH CORNER



A few health tips to help you live smarter and feel better.

VEGGIES HELP CLEAN YOUR TEETH!

Raw vegetables, such as celery and carrots, are not just healthy to eat. They also can act like detergent foods that clean your teeth, helping remove topical stains, according to the American Academy of Cosmetic Dentistry.

WORD OF THE WEEK

"There are pastors who won't go to people's sick beds. How can people of God turn their back on the sick, poor and hungry?"

James
Robinson

- Important H1N1 Information -

ATTENTION: Child Care Providers and other Interested Parties

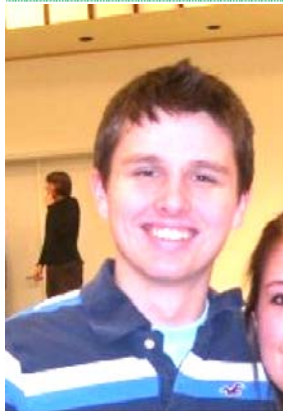
The Department of Children and Families has posted links to websites that provide resources for child care providers and the public on responding to H1N1 (formerly called swine flu) outbreaks. Please visit the following websites for more information.

Wisconsin Pandemic Flu Resource website
<http://pandemic.wisconsin.gov/>

Center for Disease Control and Prevention Child Care Providers Toolkit (H1N1)
<http://www.flu.gov/professional/school/childtoolkit.html>

Feel free to share this information with other providers and parents.

-Intern Spotlight on Aaron Zimmerman-



Hi, my name is Aaron Zimmerman. I am in the first semester interning in Senator Taylor's Office. I am currently in my first semester at the University of Wisconsin. I am planning on majoring in International Studies. I have always had an interest in politics, which led me to the National Youth Leadership Program on National Security, Diplomacy and Defense in Washington D.C. last fall. While there I had the opportunity to see our government on all levels, meet with influential politicians and other leaders, and see our nation's capital. This opportunity has given me a chance to see our great state's government up close and influence those around us. I am very thankful for this amazing opportunity.

- What you need to know to clean up your record -

This past budget included a key feature to help us remove our youthful indiscretions from our CCAP record. Expungement provisions were greatly expanded in the budget to allow you more opportunity for you to clean-up your record.

Act 28 allows that a person is eligible to have his or her record of conviction expunged if: (a) the person was under the age of 25 at the time of the commission of the offense; and (b) the offense was a misdemeanor or non-violent Class H (a maximum sentence of three years confinement and three years extended supervision) or Class I (a maximum sentence of 18 months confinement and two years extended supervision) felony. For those persons who are asking for a felony expungement, the expungement can only be done for the a first-time felony conviction.

If for any reason, you, a family member, or a friend, are facing charges, you absolutely should ask for expungement of your record. Clearing a record of charges is absolutely critical for bettering your employment opportunities. Please take advantage of this and make sure to ask your legal counsel about the option.

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**WE ARE HERE TO
SERVE!**

**CALL ON US AS
YOU NEED!**

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Community Events

What: Thoughtful Thursdays—
Conversations on Race

When: Thursday, October 22nd
6pm-7:30pm

Where: YWCA of Greater Milwaukee
1915 N. Martin Luther King Dr

Info: Community Conversation about
race and identity. Beverages and light
snack provided. Suggested contribution
of \$5.

What: 4th Annual Fatherhood
Summit

When: October 9-10

Where: St. Marcus Lutheran
church, 2215 N. Palmer

Info: Registration Info
414-286-5653
www.milwaukeefatherhood.com

If an organization you belong to has an event you feel should be included in the Community Events section please [e-mail](mailto:eric.peterson@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

Elder link
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

City of Wauwatosa
414-479-8900

GED Program
414-264-6888

W-2
1-800-722-2295

City of Glendale
414-228-1700

Badger Care Insurance
1-800-362-3002

Milwaukee Common Council
414-286-2221

**Milwaukee County Economic
Support**
414-289-6000

**US Congresswoman
Gwen Moore**
414-297-1140

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

Wisconsin Foreclosure Hotline
414-278-1240

US Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

Human Resources
608-264-8471

Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

US Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451

Senate Chief Clerk's Office
608-266-2517