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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 NOVEMBER 02—NOVEMBER 06

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.

- Milwaukee TEACH Act-

This week, I joined Senators Plale and Carpenter and Representatives Colon and Fields to introduce the Milwaukee Transforms Education for All Our Children (TEACH) Act, which would create mayoral accountability and a change in Milwaukee Public Schools (MPS) governance as part of a comprehensive and urgent effort to improve educational outcomes we are providing for our children.

Let me state the facts about student educational outcomes in MPS. The 85,000 children in Milwaukee Public Schools are attending a school district that has been categorized as a District Identified for Improvement (DIFI) for 5 consecutive years for failing to achieve proficiency in reading and math across all grade levels. **Over 82% of tenth graders in MPS did not achieve proficiency in mathematics OR reading this past year.** (DPI Annual Performance Review 2008-09) In addition, a report from the National Center for Education Statistics shows Wisconsin's **minority achievement gap is the worst in the nation in 8th grade reading and second worst in 4th grade reading.** We had the second worst achievement gap in 4th and 8th grade mathematics compared to the rest of the nation. The report shows that the average scores for both math and reading for African-American students in Wisconsin was lower than for African-Americans in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, or any other Southern state.

The current data we see in MPS leads us to transform governance in an effort to demand political accountability for these results. **On Wednesday, while speaking in our state, President Barack Obama called for drastic, vigorous strategies that are necessary to turn around our most troubled schools.** As we evaluate our Race to the Top application, President Obama has clearly laid out that one of the application's criteria is the state's ability to create a plan to turn around low-performing schools. Milwaukee is the lowest-performing district in our state and the success of our state application will hinge on our success in this challenge regarding MPS.

The Milwaukee TEACH Act will provide mayoral accountability over MPS by granting the Mayor the major responsibilities for education in Milwaukee, while maintaining the elected school board with modified powers. A draft of the bill is available at www.senatortaylor.com

MANNERS MOMENT



Dana World-Patterson
Visions Etiquette Training
visionsetiquettetraining.com

How should you receive a compliment?

Learn to receive a comment graciously.

If someone says something positive about you don't deny or refute it. Thank them for the compliment and enjoy their praise.

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.

- Get to Know The Healthy Youth Act-

This week has been an important one for the Healthy Youth Act. I have been working diligently alongside Representative Tamara Grigsby (D-Milwaukee) on legislation that will encourage the state of Wisconsin to address the issues of a rising teen pregnancy rate and the rates of STI contraction among Wisconsin teens. By updating the human growth and development statute, medically accurate and age appropriate information that promotes healthy behaviors amongst Wisconsin teens will have to be taught in school districts choosing to have sexual education curriculum.

The inclusion of this information in sexual education curriculum is critical to the health of our youth. With the increasing rates of teenage pregnancy and STIs among teens, it is apparent that although abstinence is the most effective way to prevent unintended pregnancy and the contraction of STIs, abstinence-only education is not working. Failing to make a change that effectively reduces the rate of teenage pregnancy and STI contraction is a disservice to our youth.

This week the Assembly Committee on Education voted in favor of the Healthy Youth Act in a vote of 8 to 5. Assembly Bill 458 will now advance to the Assembly Floor for the house vote. On Thursday, October 29, 2009 the Senate Committee on Education held a public hearing for Senate Bill 324. However, the executive session has not yet been scheduled and thus the date of the committee vote is unknown at this time.

If you have any further questions about the Healthy Youth Act, please feel free to contact my office at (414) 342-7176.

- New Insurance Coverage Mandates -

Beginning June 01, 2010, all Wisconsin drivers must have automobile insurance. Generally, Wisconsin has left it up to the driver to be responsible to purchase auto insurance, however this new law will mandate the purchase of auto insurance.

In addition, mandated levels of coverage will also be phased in, some of these changes starting as soon as November 01, 2009.

Uninsured Motorist Minimum Limits will go from the current 25,000/50,000 to 100,000/300,000. in November of this year.

The first amount of each represents the maximum amount paid to anyone injured person, and the second represents the maximum paid to all injured persons in a single accident.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact my office at 414-342-7176 or the Office of the Commissioner of Insurance of the State of Wisconsin at 1-800-236-8517.



HEALTH CORNER



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

WASH YOUR HANDS!

This time of year, you must be especially careful not to spread germs. It is always a good practice to wash your hands throughout the day. By taking this simple precaution you can prevent spreading and receiving germs.

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

- MPS updates on Senatortaylor.com -

Much of the buzz this week had to do with the possible new strategies that target the current problems we are having with the Milwaukee Public School System. This issue is a complicated one, however it is very important that the public is educated about the facts and are aware of up-to-date information.

By visiting my website at Senatortaylor.com you will be able to learn more about this very important issue. You will see a link (Educational Outcomes) near the top of my page that will take you directly to the page you need. There you will find links to data, press releases, drafts, and much more.

As information is made available, it will be added to the site. Keep checking back to keep updated on this issue. It is one that will shape the future of our community, our children, and our educational system in Milwaukee. We must provide for our children, we must give them proper tools and opportunities, because THEY are our future!

-A Week in Jill's Eyes-



I had the opportunity to attend several public hearings concerning the health status of Wisconsinites. I heard testimonies from individuals of expertise, community leaders and individuals speaking on behalf of their own families. However, while sitting in on the Senate Committee on Education's public hearing of the Healthy Youth Act, I listened to one community leader whose words rang louder and clearer than any other. This speaker was a Catholic priest from the Milwaukee area and yet contrary to what one might think upon seeing his clerical collar, he testified in favor of the Healthy Youth Act. Although the description of his work with one of the largest youth groups in Milwaukee and the fact that youth after youth came to him with matters of sexuality spoke to the importance of the Healthy Youth Act, it was his willingness to face reality that made the lasting impression. He had the courage to stand in front of not only a committee of Senators, but also a fiery audience and recognize that we all have ideologies, but that it is reality that needs to be addressed.

- Taylor Honors the Interns -

This week in the Senate, I had a chance to ask that the Senate adjourn in honor of all the wonderful interns that currently work in my office. Without them my office would certainly not be able to do as much as we can. They are an invaluable addition to our team.

The following interns currently work in my office and I personally thank each and every one of them: Jill Hoiting, Rachel Schwarz, Julie Benkoske, Jinny Kim, Nathan Marks, Max Schlüsselberg, Ian Targovnik, Cate Heath, Jesse Polsky, Aaron Zimmerman, Soly Moustafa.

Education is very important to me, so I am extremely blessed that I can play a part in each student's education. If you would like to intern, please contact my office.

Team Taylor



Eric Peterson
Chief of Staff



Deidra Edwards
Executive Assistant



Alan Charles
Research and Policy Advisor



Revelle Walls
Office Manager

**WE ARE HERE TO
SERVE!**

**CALL ON US AS
YOU NEED!**

Senator Taylor's Office Info:

State Capitol, 415 South
PO Box 7882
Madison, WI 53707

Phone: 888-326-6673
Fax: 608-267-2353

Email:

Sen.Taylor@legis.wisconsin.gov

Senator Taylor's Website:

www.senatortaylor.com

Community Events

What: FUEL Milwaukee for Pro Bono:
The Business Case for a Life of Service

When: Thursday, Nov 12, 5:00 PM

Where: Marcus Center for the
Performing Arts

Info: Cost 10 online or 15 at the door.
Meet the Honorable Derek Mosley,

What: Role of New Urbanism in
Public Health and Transportation

When: November 06

Where: University of WI-
Milwaukee

Info: Panel Discussion in room
AUP 170 at UWM's School of
Architecture and Urban Planning

If an organization you belong to has an event you feel should be included in the Community Events section please [e-mail](#) 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
414-773-0211

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
Medicaid
1-800-291-2002

US Senator Russ Feingold
414-276-7282

General County Resources
Dial 2-1-1
or
1-866-211-3380

US Senator Herb Kohl
414-297-4451