

BILLS AUTHORED OR SPONSORED BY REP. BENEDICT

- **AB 71** – Requiring health care facilities to notify patients of a facility fee
- **AB 81** – Prohibiting WisDOT from constructing any future weigh station in Town of LaPrairie
- **AB 94** – The Wisconsin Health Security Act
- **AB 135** – Pointing a firearm at or towards a law enforcement officer and providing penalty
- **AB 157** – Relating to the management of greenhouse gasses
- **AB 225** – Creation of the Border Incentive Grant Program
- **AB 311** – Relating to the ban of “robocalls”
- **AB 321** – Relating to disaster preparedness training - **Signed Into Law**
- **AB 337** – Emergency Contraception for Sexual Assault Victims - **Signed Into Law**
- **AB 452** – Homeowners Property Tax Exemption (HOPE)
- **AB 467** – The Birth Control Protection Act
- **AB 717** – Fire Safe Cigarettes - **Signed Into Law**
- **SB 48** – Expanding the Volunteer Health Care Provider program to include pharmacist and pharmacy technicians - **Signed Into Law**
- **SB 117** – “Two Cents for Tooth Cents” – imposes an excise tax on soft drinks and puts the money into a fund to increase the reimbursement rates to dentists in the Medical Assistance Program
- **SB 171** – “Impartial Justice” bill that would create publicly financed campaigns for State Supreme Court
- **SB 178** – Mandates insurance coverage for Autism spectrum disorders
- **SB 487** – Relating to treatment records and patient health care records – E-Health Bill - **Signed Into Law**

REP. BENEDICT ANNOUNCES AREA LISTENING SESSIONS

Rock County Dems Listening Session

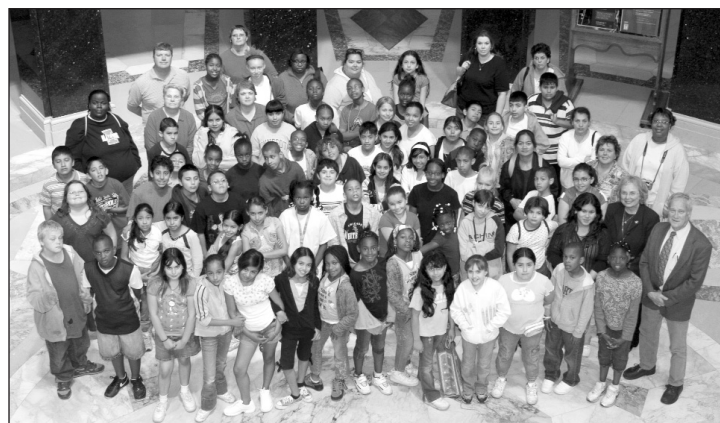
May 12, 4:00-5:30pm
Blackhawk Tech (Rm. 1315)

Join Sen. Robson and Reps. Benedict, Hixson and Sheridan at a Rock County Listening Session

Clinton – Wed., May 14, 3:00-4:30pm
Clinton Village Hall,
301 Cross Street

Beloit – Friday, May 16, 7:00-8:30am
Pleasant Street Coffeehouse

Beloit – Monday, May 19 6:00-7:30pm
Beloit Public Library



Rep. Benedict and Sen. Robson meet with students from Wright Elementary School while they toured the State Capitol in Madison.

2007-08 WISCONSIN BLUE BOOKS & HIGHWAY MAPS AVAILABLE!

I have a limited number of free 2007-08 Blue Books and Wisconsin Highway maps that are available on a first come, first-serve basis. If you would like a Blue Book and/or a highway map, please email my office at Rep.Benedict@legis.wisconsin.gov or call toll-free at 1-888-534-0045.



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CHUCK BENEDICT
45TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

HOW TO REACH CHUCK BENEDICT:

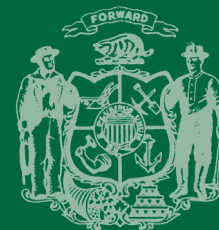
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Dear Neighbor,

As your State Representative I want to keep you informed of what's happening in Madison. While I have not been in the State Legislature as long as some, I can tell you that this past legislative session was one of the most frustrating in recent history. From budget gridlock to the inability to find compromise on a number of important issues facing Wisconsin families and taxpayers, the Legislature simply didn't get it done.

Believe me when I say that I share your frustration with this “do nothing” Assembly that, under Republican leadership, has only met as a full body 25 times since we convened in January 2007. You deserve better from your government. Assembly Democrats did everything we could to force important legislation onto the floor before the regular session ended such as health care reform, the Great Lakes Water Compact, insurance coverage for autism services, and a statewide smoking ban; but we were met with partisan resistance at every turn.

Because of this, I believe that meaningful campaign finance reform in Wisconsin will go a long way in preventing the kinds of logjams that we are seeing now, as they are deeply influenced by special interests. I strongly support campaign finance reform and will continue to push for taking the special interest money out of politics in Madison.

As always, your input is important to me and I look forward to your continued letters, emails and phone calls that have helped me better represent the varied interests of the 45th Assembly District. I hope you will be able to join me at one of my local listening sessions in the coming weeks (details on back page). If there is ever anything that I can do for you, please do not hesitate to contact me anytime.

Sincerely,

Chuck

State Representative
45th Assembly District

HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE FOR AUTISM

Studies overwhelmingly show that early diagnosis and aggressive treatment are the keys to helping children with autism lead normal, productive lives. Here in Wisconsin, we are fortunate to have the "Early Autism Project" that has helped hundreds of children. Tragically, there is 2-3 year long waiting list to get into the program and we know that each year of delay reduces the effectiveness of the treatment. As a result, many families decide to go deep into debt just so they can give their children the opportunity of a normal life.

I am a co-sponsor of Senator Judy Robson's proposal, Senate Bill 178, which would require insurance companies to cover the cost of treatment for persons with autism who are already insured by a health care plan. It is unconscionable for insurers to ignore the treatment needs of persons with autism. Insurers should not be allowed to pick and choose what medical conditions they will cover. Wisconsin should join the several other states that have already passed laws to guarantee coverage for persons with autism.



Rep. Benedict joins Sen. Judy Robson in support of her bill to provide insurance coverage to persons with autism spectrum disorder.

SB 178 passed the State Senate, but unfortunately Assembly Republicans chose to side with insurance companies instead of Wisconsin families and refused to take the bill up before the end of the regular session.

I will continue to work with Sen. Judy Robson to make sure that families who struggle with this illness will be able to ensure that insurance will cover the care their children need.

I also supported requiring insurance companies to cover hearing aids and cochlear implants for children under the age of five. Senate Bill 88 passed the State Senate unanimously. However the Assembly Republicans again chose to side with the insurance companies and refused to take this important legislation up. This is simply a fairness issue. Insurance companies should cover hearing aids and cochlear implants for young children.

BENEDICT SUPPORTS ENDING "ROBOCALLS"

I am a co-sponsor of Assembly Bill 311 that would ban the use of automated, computerized phone calls known as "robocalls". Wisconsin has long banned robocalls for commercial purposes, but left open a loophole for campaign calls. AB 311 would close this loophole and ban all robocalls to Wisconsin residents.

While I believe that it is very important that candidates and special interests have the right to



get their messages out, the volume of these calls to Wisconsin residents during elections has become excessive, to the point of harassment – with some people receiving as many as thirty robocalls each day.

Robocalls have become excessively intrusive on personal privacy. The widespread use of this technology crosses the line from campaigning to harassment and should be prohibited.

AN UPDATE ON THE STATE OF HEALTH CARE IN WISCONSIN

In 2007, the Legislature had a unique opportunity to seriously address the issue of health care reform in Wisconsin. The rising cost of health care was, and still is, the number one issue facing Wisconsin families. Unfortunately, any goodwill that was shared between Republicans and Democrats early in the

Legislative session came to a crashing halt due to the budget impasse. Valuable time was lost during the four month delay in passage of the State budget.

While I supported the "Healthy Wisconsin" plan that was included in the Senate Democrat version of the State Budget, it is now very unlikely that the Legislature will hammer out any sort of compromise comprehensive health care package before the Legislative session ends in May.

As a retired physician and co-author of the Wisconsin Health Security Act, a bill designed to create a single-payer health care system for Wisconsin residents, I know that the rising costs of health care, coupled with the skyrocketing costs of gas and food, are making it difficult for more and more families to make ends meet. We should not be asking families to choose between putting gas in their car or food on the table and making a doctor's appointment when they are sick.

Fortunately, through the BadgerCarePLUS program, all Wisconsin children will be able to receive quality health care services. But we need to be sure that their parents and grandparents also have health care security. I will continue to make comprehensive health care reform my #1 priority.



Rep. Benedict speaks out against ending the moratorium on nuclear power plants in Wisconsin.

TIPS TO SAVE MONEY AND ENERGY!

- As they burn out, replace the conventional light bulbs in your home with compact fluorescent bulbs.



- Make an effort to drive less. Make use of our exceptional bike and pedestrian paths for local trips.



- Raise your thermostat in the summer. Raising your thermostat to no lower than 78 degrees in the summer will save you money and use less energy.



- If you have a garden, buy a small composter for your kitchen refuse and use the compost on your garden or flower beds.



- Buy local produce. If you don't grow your own, make the most of your money by supporting local farmers at area markets and farm stands. Locally grown produce that is in season uses less carbon than products that must be shipped in from other countries.



- Reuse plastic and paper grocery bags. Better yet, make it a habit to purchase and use fabric or nylon shopping bags for your regular trips to the store or Farmer's Market.



- Use less water this summer. Use a timer to limit the amount of water that you use on your lawn or garden. If you wash your car or boat at home, be sure to wash it on your lawn and not on your cement driveway. The water that runs down the driveway into the sewers is money and energy lost!

