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U.S. Senator Russ Feingold	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
U.S. Senator Herb Kohl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Governor Jim Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attorney Gen. J.B. Van Hollen	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Senator Fred Risser	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Rep. Terese Berceau	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
County Executive Kathleen Falk	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Madison Mayor Dave Cieslewicz	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
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Please send me a free copy of:

___ **Wisconsin Blue Book**

___ **Wisconsin State Highway Map**

___ **Directory of Arts and Crafts Fairs**



If you would like me to send you a copy of the results of my survey, please include your e-mail address below:



State Capitol
P.O. Box 8952
Madison, WI 53708

TERESE BERCEAU
WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE **TERESE BERCEAU**

SPRING 2008 REPORT

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Capitol Office: Room 208 North



WISCONSIN STATE ASSEMBLY

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TERESE BERCEAU
76TH DISTRICT

Dear Neighbor,

For many years, I have been concerned by the legislature's lack of support for higher education in Wisconsin. In the early 1970s when I was in school, the state provided 50.7% of the budget for the UW System. In 2006-07 that number had fallen to 24.7%. Increased tuition and living costs are making it harder for many students to afford college. There are very few jobs that pay good wages and offer benefits for people with only high school diplomas. On average, someone who obtains a B.S. degree will earn almost \$1 million more than a high school graduate during his or her lifetime.

UW-Madison provides tremendous benefits for Wisconsin – 70,593 jobs, direct and indirect, and a total statewide economic impact of \$4,665,983,462. The National Science Foundation lists Madison as the nation's top public university for research expenditures, totaling more than \$900 million last year. In science and engineering research we were second behind Johns Hopkins. UW-Madison was first overall in 2006 in spending in education, business, and the humanities. There is no way to maintain this record if we continue to shortchange the university by hundreds of millions of dollars every session.

I had hoped this would be the year that we instituted health coverage for domestic partners. Madison is the only Big 10 school that does not offer this benefit. We've already lost a number of talented faculty members to other universities due to this shortsighted policy.

Last fall, Assembly Republicans actually passed a budget that cut off all funding to the UW Law School. The legislature definitely must re-examine its priorities if we want to maintain the strength of this state economic engine. I have worked closely with the University this session, especially in the areas of biotechnology and nanotechnology research, and I plan to continue these efforts and more in the future.

Terese

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2007 – 2008 Committee Assignments

**Joint Committee
for the Review of
Administrative Rules**

**Children and Family Law
Insurance**

Urban and Local Affairs

Historical Society Board

Visit my website at
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Browse the Wisconsin Blue Book online at <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lrb/bb/07bb/index.htm>

END WAL-MART TAX LOOPHOLE

Under a loophole in state law, Wal-Mart and other large companies evade paying their fair share of taxes by paying rent to themselves and then deducting the cost on their tax bills. Here's how it works: A subsidiary of a big company pays rent to a real estate investment trust (REIT), which gets a tax break if it pays out its profits in dividends. The REIT is owned by another subsidiary of the same firm that collects the dividends tax free. The firm also gets to deduct the rent from state taxes as a business expense, even though the money never left the company. The federal government closed this loophole years ago. About half

of other states have done so, as well. The Wall Street Journal reported, "on average, Wal-Mart has paid only about half of the statutory tax rates for the past decade." I don't think it's fair for the largest, most successful multi-national corporations in the country to avoid this tax and pass on the burden to homeowners, renters, and small businesses. These companies need and use services provided by state and local governments – police and fire protection, good roads, and infrastructure – just like the rest of us.

I authored legislation to end this practice and make these businesses pay their fair share. Closing the REIT loophole would generate \$6 million a year in state revenue. Governor Doyle included my proposal in the budget repair bill he submitted to the legislature in mid-March.

Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act Signed Into Law



The CCRVA ensures that victims of rape or incest receive information about and have access to emergency contraception at all hospital emergency rooms in Wisconsin. A recent study showed almost 2/3 of emergency rooms failed to provide emergency contraception to all rape victims. In 21 mostly rural counties in Wisconsin, there are no hospitals that offer emergency contraception to rape victims.

In a Wisconsin poll last year, 72% of respondents supported requiring hospital ERs to inform rape victims about emergency contraception and to dispense it to patients who request EC. Nationwide, over 25,000 unintended pregnancies and 16,000 abortions are the result of rape each year. 88% of these pregnancies could be prevented if women used emergency contraception.

Sexual assault survivors have the right to information about all the health care options available to them. No woman should EVER have to shop around for adequate and accurate health care after being raped. This issue is not political or partisan. It is a matter of simple human compassion. I am proud to have been a co-sponsor of this new law.

Unfair to Link Insurance Rates and Credit Scores

You're a safe driver: no tickets, no accidents. Your home isn't located in a floodplain or hurricane zone. You always pay your premiums on time. You've never even filed an insurance claim. You might think such a stellar record would translate into lower car and homeowner's insurance premiums. That used to be true but it isn't anymore. Insurance companies now use credit scores to determine premiums or even deny coverage.

Credit scoring appeared after insurance companies were banned from "redlining" certain geographic areas and minority groups. I've introduced legislation to prohibit this practice.

Credit bureau records can be inaccurate. Consumer Reports found up to 25% contain serious errors. If you use department store credit cards instead of Visa or MasterCard, that can lower your credit score, even if you've never missed a payment. You could be in the 20% of the population that has "thin" credit files. This can occur when you have a short credit history, use cash rather than credit, or were widowed or divorced and your credit information was in your spouse's name.

Insurance companies should judge you on driving behavior and claims history, not on your credit score. My bill passed the Senate but was not taken up in the Assembly. I will introduce it again next session.

Nanotechnology - Tracking a New Industry

Scientists at UW-Madison are conducting exciting research in the emerging field of nanotechnology – science and engineering at the scale of atoms and molecules. A nanometer is one-billionth of a meter, smaller than the wavelength of visible light and a hundred-thousandth the width of a human hair. The results so far are promising, with the possibility of advances in cancer treatments, faster computers, cleaner and more efficient energy, economic development, and new jobs and industries in Wisconsin.

Nanotechnology may possess some potential risks. Nano-sized materials have different properties from larger materials, which could make them more toxic in organisms and eco-systems. Right now, we don't know exactly what materials are being used or where, and in what quantities.

I am working with public officials, scientists, and leaders in the industry to develop a state registry to track the nanomaterials used in Wisconsin. In January, the Environmental Protection Agency launched a voluntary federal registry. The city of Berkeley, California established a nanomaterials registry similar to the one I am proposing. We would be the first state to have this kind of registry. I want to support nanotechnology research, while being properly prepared to respond to any adverse environmental or health aspects.



Terese, as ranking member of Urban & Local Affairs, confers with Republican chair Mark Gottlieb.



Students from Thoreau Elementary visit the Capitol.



Terese in the Assembly Chambers.

I sincerely value your opinions and comments on issues regarding state policy. Please take a few moments to fill out this survey and mail it back to me. If more than one person in your household would like to fill out the survey, please use different color inks. I personally read each and every reply. If you would like to receive a copy of the survey results, please include your e-mail address.

- 1) Wisconsin currently has a ban on the construction of new nuclear power plants until a safe site exists to store the radioactive waste that is created. Generating nuclear power does not emit greenhouse gases associated with global warming. Should Wisconsin continue to prohibit new nuclear facilities?
 Yes No Undecided
- 2) Should insurance companies be allowed to use credit scores when setting premiums for auto and homeowners insurance?
 Yes No Undecided
- 3) Which one of the following more closely represents your opinion about health care and prescription drug coverage?
 Health care and prescription drugs coverage should be provided to everyone through government programs similar to Medicare and Medicaid.
 Health care and prescription drug coverage should be provided by employers or through private coverage.
 Health care and prescription drug coverage should be provided by a combination of public and private sources.
 Undecided

- 4) Which statement most closely represents your opinion about abortion and the law?
 Abortion should remain legal.
 Abortion should be illegal except for cases of rape or incest, or if the woman's health is in danger.
 Abortion should be illegal unless the woman's life is in danger.
 All abortions should be illegal.
 Undecided
- 5) Do you support legislation to require the minimum wage be indexed to the rate of inflation?
 Yes No Undecided
- 6) Do you support changing state law to allow cities to install cameras that photograph drivers who run red lights, and then send tickets through the mail?
 Yes No Undecided
- 7) For those convicted of first degree murder, do you prefer:
 Death penalty.
 Life in prison without parole.
 Undecided
- 8) Under current law, all 17-year-olds are treated as adults for any alleged crimes. Each year in Wisconsin, about 30,000 17-year-olds are arrested. 98% of those are for minor offenses. Legislation has been offered to return non-violent 17-year-olds to the juvenile court system. Violent offenders would still be sent to adult court. Do you support this proposal?
 Yes No Undecided

- 9) Legislation has been proposed to ban smoking in all workplaces. Which statement most closely represents your opinion about public smoking?
 I favor an immediate ban on smoking in all workplaces.
 I favor an immediate ban on smoking in most workplaces, but there should be a longer phase-in period for bars and taverns.
 Bars and taverns should be exempt from any smoking ban.
 The state should not prohibit smoking in workplaces.
 Undecided
- 10) Charter schools are seen by some as a workable alternative, with more flexible rules, to the public school system. Who should be able to operate charter schools? (You may select more than one option.)
 School districts
 Universities and technical colleges
 Local governments like cities or counties
 Charter schools should be prohibited
- 11) In your opinion, what is the most important issue facing the University of Wisconsin? (Please choose one.)
 Decreased state financial support
 Developing new technology and industries to expand the university's economic impact in the state
 Making tuition affordable for WI families
 Recruiting qualified faculty
 Producing an educated, skilled workforce
 Micromanagement by the legislature