



GARY HEBL

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE 46TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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OR CURRENT RESIDENT

2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE & SURVEY



Visit Your State Capitol

The State Capitol is a popular place to visit when in Madison. I often have the benefit of sharing the experience with constituents and school groups when they tour the Capitol. Please let me know when you'll be visiting and I will make every effort to meet personally with you.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE GARY HEBL

2008 Capitol Report

I wanted to give you a quick update on some of the major issues that were addressed in the 2007-08 Legislative Session.

While there is still plenty of work to be done in many areas, I am pleased to say that we made progress on a number of issues important to the people of the 46th Assembly District during this legislative session.

Here are a few of the highlights:

EDUCATION: Passed legislation funding the state's statutory commitment of 2/3 funding of K-12 education and included significant gains for the UW-System. We also made higher education more affordable for working families by protecting tuition assistance programs.

ECONOMY: Passed \$30 million in funding for Renewable Energy Grants, as well as tax credits to grow and expand Wisconsin's bio-industry, tax credits to modernize and expand Wisconsin's cheese industry, and a tax exemption directed at Wisconsin's manufacturers to help them with their energy costs.

ENVIRONMENT: Protected the state's Stewardship fund, which purchases environmentally sensitive lands to safeguard our state's most precious natural resources for the future.

HEALTH CARE: Passed BadgerCare, which expands health coverage to all children and offers health education and prevention programs which promote healthy lifestyles.

ETHICS REFORM: Legislators worked together with the Governor to create an effective, non-partisan Government Accountability Board, which is responsible for advising state government on ethics and elections matters.

Dear Friends & Neighbors,

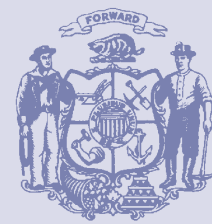
Thank you for the honor and privilege of serving you in the Wisconsin State Assembly.

In this newsletter you will find a brief update on some of the issues I have been working on as your State Representative, as well as a survey for you to offer your opinions on the key issues before the Legislature.

Your views on state issues are very important to me. If you ever have any questions about issues before the Legislature or about state government, please feel free to contact me.

Warm Regards,

GARY A. HEBL
State Representative
46th Assembly District



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE GARY HEBL / LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Community Connections

Hebl Recognizes Commander's 7th Tour of Duty

One of the most heartbreaking jobs of being a State Representative is honoring the brave service members who have died serving our country. During our last regular legislative session day, we honored 14 fallen service members from Wisconsin who have died while serving our country overseas. During a break from session that day, I was discussing the soldiers with my wife, Lynn, and she told me an amazing story about the father of a little boy, who goes to Sun Prairie's Eastside Elementary School, where she is the school nurse.

Lynn told me about Lt. Colonel Jeff Wiegand, who had just returned that day from serving his 7th tour of duty. Jeff is Commander of the 176th Fighter Squadron, of the Air National Guard's 115th Fighter Wing, which is stationed out of Madison's Truax Field.

Like any proud father who has been away from his children for months, Jeff wanted to see his family as soon as he returned. But because homecoming dates can change, Jeff didn't want to promise exactly when he would return. So when he finally came home, Jeff wanted to surprise his 7-year-old son, Kyle, who is in second grade at Eastside. While Kyle took a note to the school office, Jeff snuck into his son's classroom.

When Kyle returned and saw his Dad, the little boy came running across the room and jumped into his arms.

Because this was such a heart-warming story, I asked Jeff to



Lt. Colonel Jeff Wiegand with his wife Kari, who is also a Lt. Colonel assigned to the 115th Fighter Wing; their sons, Kyle, 7, and Ben, 5; and John McCoy, Deputy Adjutant General for the Wisconsin Air National Guard.

come in and be recognized by the State Assembly.

Jeff flies an F-16, and during his most recent mission in Iraq, he, along with his squadron have been responsible for providing combat air support for the ground forces fighting there. In recent years, Jeff has served: two tours in Iraq, two in Saudi Arabia, one in Kuwait, one in Qatar, and one in Turkey.

The 115th Fighter Wing deployed over 300 airmen to Iraq to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Their devotion to their duty and the dedication of all the men and women of our armed forces serving around the world deserve our support and praise.

Hebl Honors Stoughton Man for Being Hometown Hero

In August 2007, the State Assembly recognized Bill Brue of Stoughton for his volunteer work with the "Hometown Hero



Bill Brue and his wife, Diane, look on while Rep. Hebl speaks to the State Assembly about Brue's volunteerism.

Award." Since 2005, Brue has spearheaded an effort to make Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs) available in the Stoughton School System. And thanks to his efforts, Stoughton Schools approved a plan to secure funding for the important life-saving devices. An AED is a portable automatic device used to restore normal heart rhythm to patients in cardiac arrest.

But this is only the most recent effort Brue has made on behalf of his community. His volunteerism spans from his early years working in the in-patient ward of the Lakeland Counseling Center at Elkhorn, serving as a staff member at the Easter Seals' Camp Wawbeek in Wisconsin Dells and participating in the Governor's Conference on the Disabled.

Following the devastating tornados that struck the City of Stoughton and surrounding townships of Pleasant Springs, Dunkirk, Albion and Christiana in August of 2005, Brue worked tirelessly as a volunteer helping with the clean-up efforts. I was proud to nominate him for a Hometown Hero Award. Bill is the kind of Hometown Hero for which this award was designed.

Cut out questionnaire, fold, tape here and apply postage.

PLACE
FIRST
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GARY HEBL
STATE CAPITOL ♦ P.O. Box 8952
MADISON, WI 53708

Name (please print) _____
City, State, Zip _____
Address _____
Email _____



2007-2008 Legislative Report

Hebl Introduces World Language Bill

We live in a rapidly changing world where local challenges must be met with global connections. In order for our students here in Wisconsin to be competitive in the international economy, the State Legislature must make sure that our kids have every advantage we can give them.

For our students to compete globally they must be able to communicate with different people from all around the world. Studies clearly demonstrate that starting foreign language instruction at an early age dramatically increases a student's ability to absorb many different types of information. That is why I introduced **Assembly Bill 814**, known as the World Language Bill.

AB-814 is a pretty simple bill. This legislation would set up a series of pilot programs in school districts to add elementary instruction in world languages. Under the bill, a school board may apply for a six-year grant to pay for a portion of the compensation of up to two teachers and to phase in world languages instruction in grades one to six. AB-814 also provides professional development funding for teachers to implement this bill. Some districts like Oregon are already offering early foreign language instruction.

Ultimately, I believe AB-814 is about expanding opportunities for Wisconsin students. While global competitors like China are pushing policies that mandate students be fluent in several



Rep. Gary Hebl introduces his World Languages Bill during a press conference at Netherwood Knoll Elementary in Oregon, with 1st graders and members of the news media in attendance.

languages by the time they graduate, students in the United States and here in Wisconsin are running the risk of falling behind.

Keeping Wisconsin's education system strong requires that we provide our students with the tools they need to communicate and work with their peers overseas and at home.



Assembly Joint Resolution 93:

In February, the Assembly and Senate passed a resolution I authored, which named **June 7, 2008, "Proper Drug Disposal Day."**

With the rise in the use of prescription medication in recent years, pharmaceuticals have increasingly been found to be polluting our ground and drinking water.

On June 7, MedDrop Dane County will be holding a medication drop at the **City Transfer Station**, located at **121 E. Olin Avenue**, near the Alliant Energy Center. Community pharmaceutical take-back programs like this allow the public to bring unused drugs to a central location for proper disposal.

For those unable to dispose of their unused medications through a program, the Office of National Drug Control Policy suggests people mix their unused pharmaceuticals with coffee grounds or kitty litter and place them in non-descript containers, such as empty cans or sealable bags before disposing.



Assembly Bill 207:

Known as the Cable Bill, this legislation replaced the system which allowed local governments to negotiate their own contracts with cable companies, and replaced it with a system of state-awarded franchises.

While much was made of the affect this bill would have on competition, in reality cable companies could have entered the market without the bill. In fact, the original form of the bill eliminated consumer protections and funding for municipalities and community access stations, like **KIDS-4 in Sun Prairie.**

That is why I led an effort to maintain consumer protection standards for cable television customers and worked to protect funding for municipalities and community access stations. In the end, I was pleased to see that Governor Jim Doyle used his veto pen to make a number of the key changes I suggested in amendments to the bill.

Hebl Brings Important Resources Back to District

Rep. Hebl's Efforts Help Fund Park and Oregon Road Project

The state budget this year included funding for two important projects in the 46th Assembly District: \$25,000 for "Fireman's Park in the Prairie," a handicapped-accessible playground on the City of Sun Prairie's southeast side and for a much needed road project in Oregon.

I am so pleased the State of Wisconsin could support this truly remarkable and worthwhile effort. Fireman's Park in the Prairie is a park unlike any other in Dane County. This park will allow children of all abilities to play together and bring families from around the area to see how we value all children – regardless of their ability – in Sun Prairie.

The mission of the Firemen's Park in the Prairie is to establish a nearly 100 percent handicapped-accessible play environment that is physically and mentally challenging to children of all abilities, which is designed, built and maintained by every segment of the community.

The playground will give the children who are wheelchair-bound, blind and hearing impaired, the ability to play in the park and among children of all abilities, organizers of the park said.

Anita Holcomb, one of the main organizers of the project, said the state grant would help repay Chase Lumber Co. for the lumber used in the construction of the park's playground equipment, construction of a new parking lot and renovation of the park's bathrooms to make them handicapped accessible.

"I want to thank Rep. Hebl for bringing these state resources to Sun Prairie," Holcomb said. "It is because of his efforts and the generosity of the taxpayers of the State of Wisconsin that this important funding is possible."



Sun Prairie Mayor Joe Chase and park organizer Anita Holcomb are presented a copy of the check from Department of Children and Families Secretary Reggie Bicha, Rep. Gary Hebl and state Sen. Mark Miller.

Fireman's Park in the Prairie is one of those projects that make the 46th Assembly District and Eastern Dane County such a great place to live.

USH-14 Reconstruction

In important news for Oregon, the budget requires the Department of Transportation to complete a reconstruction project on USH-14 between CTH MM and STH-138, during the 2007-09 biennium. Construction will involve the replacement of the pavement and the construction of an additional lane in each direction.

I believe this project is long overdue and will enhance the safety of my constituents in the Village of Oregon.

BADGERCARE+: Covering Wisconsin Children



Health care is the topic everyone is talking about these days, and I am happy to say we made a significant stride this session by enacting a program called BadgerCare Plus. Under BadgerCare Plus, 98% of the children in our state will have access to health and medical coverage. Enrollment in the

program began earlier this year and allows any family that wants to purchase health care for their kids to do so regard-

less of income. The BadgerCare expansion will also benefit pregnant women, working families, and the self-employed. These individuals may have to pay a premium cost depending on their income. Farm families will also see increased access to health care through important reforms in the way depreciation is counted towards income. By working together, Republicans and Democrats accomplished this important budget provision. While there is still more work to do to address the high costs of health care coverage for families in our state, BadgerCare Plus is a step in the right direction. Apply online at www.badgercareplus.org or call 1-800-362-3002 for program information.



Thank you for taking a few minutes to answer my 2008 Annual Legislative Survey. Because of space limitations, it is not possible to include every important issue and some of the choices provided for each question may not adequately reflect your opinions, but your participation in this survey is very important to me.

If more than one member of your household would like to answer the survey, please use a different colored marker or pen for each person. To return your responses, simply cut on the dotted line, fold so the return address on the back page is showing and tape it at the top.

Thank you for your participation!

- Legislation has been proposed to ban smoking in all public buildings in Wisconsin. Do you support this proposal?
 Yes No Undecided
- Describe your opinion about funding for K-12 education in the State of Wisconsin:
 More Funding
 Same Funding
 Less Funding
 Undecided
- Do you think all Wisconsin residents should be covered by a health care plan similar to that offered to elected officials and state employees?
 Yes No Undecided
- Would you support a proposal that would allow homeowners to exempt the first \$60,000 of their home's value from property taxes in order to save an average of \$500 on their property tax bills?
 Yes No Undecided
- According to the Department of Revenue, 62% of the largest corporations pay no income tax. Would you support a tax on these corporations to reduce residential property taxes?
 Yes No Undecided
- Thirteen states have adopted a requirement that new cars in those states must meet higher fuel efficiency standards. Proponents of this requirement say the law will save gas and curb greenhouse gases that cause global warming. Opponents say it will add to the cost of a new car. Do you believe Wisconsin should also adopt this requirement?
 Yes No Undecided
- Do you support legislation to protect Great Lakes water from being diverted outside the Great Lakes Basin?
 Yes No Undecided
- In order to limit the influence of the special interests, would you support the use of public financing for political campaigns?
 Yes No Undecided
- Do you support legislation to require that the minimum wage be indexed to the rate of inflation?
 Yes No Undecided
- Would you support starting foreign language instruction in elementary school?
 Yes No Undecided

How would you rate the job performance of these elected officials?

	Very Good	Good	Fair	Poor	Undecided
Representative Gary Hebl	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
State Senator Mark Miller	<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"/>
Governor Jim Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen	<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"/>
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"/>
President George Bush	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

