



DONNA SEIDEL

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
85TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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(Above) Rep. Seidel participated in a Wisconsin Air National Guard refueling mission with her legislative colleagues.



(Right) Rep. Seidel invited DC Everest Jr. High Student, Nate Fiene, to visit her in Madison after reading an article he wrote for the local paper about his skepticism of politics. Nate says watching government in action at the State Capitol changed his views.

(Left) Rep. Seidel's first bill was signed by Governor Doyle. Assembly Bill 39 streamlines child and spousal support collections done by county agencies.



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LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2008



DONNA SEIDEL
STATE REPRESENTATIVE
85TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is a privilege to serve as your State Representative. During my second term, I have continued my commitment to finding a comprehensive solution that provides access to quality, affordable health care. My appointment to the Assembly Committee on Health and Health Care Reform has allowed me to focus on this critical issue facing families across the state.

I am also a member of Wisconsin's State Coverage Initiative team which is studying the approaches other states are taking to address the health care crisis. Our goal is to use the best ideas to create a solution that will work for Wisconsin. There are a lot of ideas out there and it is time for us to put rhetoric aside and for everyone to come to the table. I have held a number of forums in our area and I am planning more in the coming months so that you can be involved in this important conversation.

In this newsletter, I am providing an update on a number of health care initiatives. Wisconsin has the opportunity to be at the forefront of health care reform in our country. We should be proud of the steps we have taken so far, but there is still a lot work to be done. By taking incremental steps we will achieve comprehensive reform.

Thank you for allowing me to be your voice in the State Assembly.

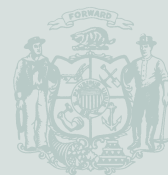
Sincerely,

DONNA SEIDEL
State Representative
85th Assembly District

STATE CAPITOL: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708 ♦ (608) 266-0654 ♦ TOLL-FREE: 1-888-534-0085
FAX: (608) 282-3685 ♦ E-MAIL: rep.seidel@legis.wi.gov

2007-2008 Committee Assignments:

- Children and Family Law
- Corrections and the Courts
- Health and Health Care Reform
- Legislative Council Special Committee on Strengthening Families
- Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board
- Committee to Improve Interpreting and Translation in Wisconsin Courts



How to Contact Me:

STATE CAPITOL: P.O. Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708 ♦ (608) 266-0654 ♦ TOLL-FREE: 1-888-534-0085
FAX: (608) 282-3685 ♦ E-MAIL: rep.seidel@legis.wi.gov ♦ WEBSITE: www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm85/news/
IN DISTRICT: 807 S. 20th St., Wausau, WI 54403 ♦ (715) 845-2988

WOMEN'S HEALTH

I have always been a strong advocate for women's health and reproductive rights. I will continue to support legislation that protects the sanctity of the doctor patient relationship and ensures that medical decisions can be made to protect the health and safety of the patient. I was proud to vote for the Compassionate Care for Rape Victims Act this session which protects a victim's right to be informed of all of her health care options including emergency contraception. It is crucial that we empower patients to make decisions about their health care and where they receive it.



Rep. Seidel speaks at a Capitol press conference regarding the impact of the state budget on women's access to health care.



BADGERCARE+

Enrollment for BadgerCare Plus started on February 1st. This new program offers affordable insurance to make sure that all kids in Wisconsin have health care. Every Wisconsin family, regardless of income, can purchase comprehensive coverage for their children. Families with higher incomes may be required to pay a small monthly premium, but many children will qualify for free coverage. BadgerCare Plus also covers working families without children and expands coverage for farmers and pregnant women. To find out if you are eligible for BadgerCare Plus, you can visit www.access.wi.gov and click on "Am I Eligible". You can also apply online by clicking on "Apply for Benefits". Please contact my office if you are unable to access these tools online or if you need other assistance.

HEALTHY WISCONSIN

During the budget process, Senate Democrats introduced Healthy Wisconsin. This comprehensive health care plan ensures that everyone in Wisconsin has access to the same health care coverage as members of the State Legislature regardless of health or employment status. Healthy Wisconsin is a compromise of the various plans considered by the Legislature in recent sessions and takes into consideration the comments heard at public hearings across the state. Senator Decker and I hosted a number of sessions like this in Wausau including a town hall meeting last fall to discuss Healthy Wisconsin.

Healthy Wisconsin has received strong support, but concerns have also been raised. Before moving this initiative forward, it is important that these issues be addressed. Healthy Wisconsin is a step in the right direction, and while it may not be the final answer, it has finally brought this issue to the forefront of discussion in the Legislature.

SOLUTIONS FOR SMALL BUSINESS

Small businesses and their employees pay 18% more for health insurance than big companies. I am working with Governor Doyle on BadgerChoice, an initiative to create a consumer-driven marketplace that provides real competition among insurance companies and real choice for consumers. By harnessing the purchasing power of Wisconsin's small businesses, we can drive down costs and provide real savings for families.

I also supported legislation that was introduced to create a statewide catastrophic health care pool which would provide reinsurance to businesses and individuals. The pool would allow small business owners to purchase affordable health insurance for their employees.

I value your opinions on issues before the State Legislature. Please take a moment to fill out this survey.

If more than one member of your household would like to respond, please use different colored inks. You can also complete the survey online by visiting my website.

To return the survey to me, simply refold with my address visible, tape the top and attach a stamp. Sharing your name and mailing address is optional, but will help me stay in touch with you in the future.

Thank you for taking the time to share your views with me.

Do you have health insurance through your employer?
 Yes No

Do you believe the state has a responsibility to enact comprehensive health care reform that would lower costs and ensure all residents of Wisconsin have insurance coverage?
 Yes No Undecided

Do you support a 2 cent tax on a can of soda to support the Medicaid fund which covers dental care for low-income workers, families and the disabled?
 Yes No Undecided

Legislation has been proposed to prohibit smoking in most public places in Wisconsin, including workplaces, public buildings, restaurants and bars. Do you support this proposal?
 Yes No Undecided

Do you support proposals which would severely limit the amount of campaign contributions political candidates receive and instead replace it with a specific amount of public funds for each candidate?
 Yes No Undecided

Currently the state is considering legislation to protect Great Lakes water from being diverted outside the Great Lakes Basin. Do you support this legislation?
 Yes No Undecided

Legislation has been introduced to require that all gasoline sold in Wisconsin contain at least 10% ethanol. Do you support this legislation?
 Yes No Undecided

Do you support increasing the minimum wage to \$7.25 and then raising it every year at the rate of inflation?
 Yes No Undecided

Pay day lending stores make small loans with interest rates in excess of 500%. Currently, Wisconsin is one of three states that does not regulate this industry. Should a law be passed that prohibits this industry from charging excessive interest rates?
 Yes No Undecided

Current state law allows big businesses to evade taxes simply by maintaining a PO Box in Las Vegas. Do you support closing this massive tax loophole for business in order to provide Wisconsin taxpayers an average of \$500 in annual savings on their property tax bill?
 Yes No Undecided

Which tax is the most important to reduce in your opinion:
 Corporate (Choose one)
 Fees
 Income
 Property
 Sales
 Undecided

SIGN-UP FOR MY E-NEWSLETTER

I send out regular e-mail updates about what's happening at the Capitol and to keep you informed about events in the district. If you would like to receive my e-newsletter, please provide your e-mail address here or send me an e-mail at Rep.Seidel@legis.wi.gov indicating that you would like your name added to the list. Please be sure to include your name and address.

E-mail: _____

FREE FOR THE ASKING:

Each year, the State creates a variety of resources that are free to the citizens of Wisconsin. If you are interested in any of the publications listed, check the box below and mail this form to my office. You may also call my office or e-mail me.

- Wisconsin Biking Guide
- Wisconsin Activity Guide
- Wisconsin State Highway Map
- Wisconsin State Parks Visitors Guide
- 2008 Campground Directory
- Wisconsin Travel Guide 2007-08
- 2008 Summer Event & Recreation Guide
- Wisconsin ATV Guide

Name _____ Address _____
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