

Affordable Health Care for our Kids

When I talk with neighbors and families in Janesville, health care is easily the most important and frequently discussed issue. In Wisconsin, too many people struggle with accessing and affording health insurance. That's why I am proud to have been one of the many people who worked to create BadgerCare Plus. BadgerCare Plus is a change to the health care norm that results



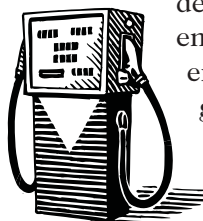
Photo by Yuri Rashkin

Rep. Sheridan and Sen. Robson discuss Badger Care Plus at the Rock County Job Center.

in savings to Janesville families. Under BadgerCare Plus, 98 percent of Wisconsin's children have access to health and medical coverage. Any family that wants to purchase health care for their kids can do so regardless of income. Enrollment in the program began in early February. BadgerCare Plus is a great bipartisan success story. While there is still more work to do to ensure access to health care for everyone in Wisconsin, BadgerCare Plus is a step in the right direction. For more information, or to sign up online, visit: badgercareplus.org or contact the Rock County Human Services Department.

Energy Independence

Our nation's security is at risk because our energy demands exceed our natural resources. Through energy independence our nation can become safer, stronger and cleaner. That is why I fully support the development, promotion, and use of environmentally-sustainable renewable energy sources. Our children and grandchildren are counting on us to invest in renewable energy now so that they can enjoy energy security tomorrow.



Autism and Cochlear Implant Coverage

Currently, one of every 150 children born in the U.S. is diagnosed with autism. While the cause is not yet known, the levels are reaching epidemic proportions. Under current Wisconsin law, insurance companies are not required to provide coverage for autism treatment to policy holders. As a result, children with autism often do not receive the treatment they need until they are in public schools. By then, treatment is more expensive and less effective. I am a cosponsor of a bill, recently passed by the State Senate, to require insurance companies to cover autism spectrum disorders. This bill will save taxpayer dollars in our educational system and greatly improve the quality of life for children with autism. I am a coauthor of a similar bill to require insurance companies to cover cochlear implants for children with severe hearing impairments. With cochlear implants, some children who are born with deafness can have normal hearing. Both bills stalled in the Republican-controlled State Assembly



Rep. Sheridan testifying on the need for energy independence.

SeniorCare

The spring of 2007 was victorious for Wisconsin and Wisconsin's seniors. Thanks to Senators Feingold and Kohl, Congressman Obey, and the rest of the Wisconsin Congressional delegation, SeniorCare will continue to be a model for the nation in providing seniors with affordable prescription drugs.

In April 2007, federal officials decided against continuing funding for Senior-Care, instead urging the use of Medicare Part D. However, in late May, Congress passed, and the president signed, an appropriations bill that included a provision allowing Wisconsin to continue the SeniorCare. I am proud to have been involved with safeguarding the SeniorCare prescription drug benefit for seniors. This impressive coalition brought us together to fight for the rights of all of Wisconsin's seniors. I look forward to working to ensure the SeniorCare prescription drug benefit remains an asset to our seniors for generations to come. Wisconsin's seniors deserve the best prescription drug program available, and that program is SeniorCare.



Representative Sheridan and Senator Robson, and Whitewater Chancellor Richard Telfer discussed undergraduate research projects with researchers John Petty, Graynn Deboer, Phil Castillo, and Jessica Solis. Their research projects included a historic perspective on the American University in Beirut, Genetic analysis, and an in-depth look at jury composition.

Campaign Finance and Ethics Reform

One of the biggest issues in Wisconsin over the past decade has been governmental ethics. I am proud to have helped to create the state's first Government Accountability Board, which will have a strong hand in preventing future ethics violations and cleaning up our government. However, more needs to be done to safeguard our elections process. The Legislature needs to take special interest money out of races for the Wisconsin Supreme Court and set stronger guidelines for fund-raising activities. Supreme Court races should not be about who can raise and spend the most money, they should be about which judge has the best qualifications. The State Senate recently passed a bill to create a new financing system for Supreme Court races and get special interest money out of our courts. Unfortunately, the bill stalled in the Republican-controlled State Assembly.



Governor Doyle thanks Rep. Sheridan for his work on an unemployment insurance bill.

Tax Fairness

Over the past thirty years, Wisconsin's tax burden has increasingly shifted to the backs of middle class families. This shift has been the result of unchecked corporate tax loopholes. While some tax breaks help businesses create jobs, most simply make Wisconsin's tax law confusing and unfair. One particular loophole known as the "Las Vegas Loophole" allows corporations to simply open a Post Office Box in Nevada to avoid paying Wisconsin taxes. I am proud to support the Home Owners Property Exemption (HOPE) which will restore sanity and order to our tax system. Under the HOPE plan, home owners would receive a tax credit to cover school taxes paid on the first \$60,000 of the value of their homes. HOPE would be financed by eliminating unfair corporate tax loopholes.

PLEASE take a moment to fill out this questionnaire and return it to me. This can also be found on my legislative website: www.legis.state.wi.us/assembly/asm44/news/. I will be asked to vote on many of these issues in the future, and I welcome your input. If more than one member of your household would like to complete it, please use different colored inks. To return the questionnaire to me, simply refold with my address visible, tape the top and attach a stamp. Sharing your name, address and phone is optional. If you'd like to see the results, please write your email address below. I appreciate the time that is taken to answer my questions.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION

Yes, please send me the results.
Here's my email address (optional):

- Which one statement best describes your position on health care reform? (Circle one.)
 - The health care system is long overdue for a drastic overhaul and should be replaced with a single payer system that covers everyone.
 - The state should provide health care to all low income people in Wisconsin.
 - The state should guarantee health care to all Wisconsin children.
 - A tax incentive for health savings accounts is all that is needed to reform the system.
 - Our health care system is fine the way it is, and the government should leave it alone.
- Current state law allows corporations to evade taxes simply by maintaining a PO Box in Nevada or Delaware. Do you support closing this tax loophole?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- If taxes can be cut, which one tax would you prefer to see reduced? (Circle one.)
 - Property Tax
 - Fees
 - Income Tax
 - Corporate Tax
 - Sales Tax
 - Cigarette/Tobacco/Alcohol
 - Undecided

- If taxes must be raised, which one tax would you prefer to see increased? (Circle one.)
 - Property Tax
 - Fees
 - Income Tax
 - Corporate Tax
 - Sales Tax
 - Cigarette/Tobacco/Alcohol
 - 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
- Do you support a statewide indoor smoking ban that includes restaurants and taverns?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- The DNR has recently proposed banning all baiting and feeding of white tailed deer. Current law allows baiting and feeding with a two gallon limit. Should the legislature ban all baiting and feeding of deer?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- Do you believe motorists should be required to turn on their lights in inclement weather (i.e. fog, rain)?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- Do you support changing Wisconsin law to allow individuals to carry concealed weapons?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- Should women have access to birth control by requiring pharmacists to fill safe and legal prescriptions without harassment or delay?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- Should victims of rape or incest have access to emergency contraception?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED
- Should the Legislature repeal a state law that dictates prison time for women who seek or receive abortions?

___ YES ___ NO ___ UNDECIDED

MIKE SHERIDAN

Legislative Questionnaire

13. Which one statement best describes your position on abortion? (Circle one.)
- a. Abortion should be illegal without exception.
 - b. Abortion should be legal only when the mother's life is at risk.
 - c. Abortion should be legal only for cases of rape and incest or when the mother's life or health is at risk.
 - d. Abortion should be legal, safe, and rare, but taxpayer money should not go toward abortions.
 - e. Government funding should be available for abortions for low income women.
14. Should Wisconsin encourage the search for potential medical cures using embryonic stem cell research?
 YES NO UNDECIDED
15. Do you support the death penalty?
 YES NO UNDECIDED

16. Should the state do more to limit the influence of special interest money in campaigns and elections?
 YES NO UNDECIDED

THANK YOU FOR TAKING THE TIME TO ANSWER MY QUESTIONNAIRE.



Rep. Sheridan boards a Wisconsin Air National Guard refueling mission with the 128th Air Refueling Wing.



MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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 Madison, WI 53708

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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE 2008



United States and Wisconsin Flags are available for purchase through the Assembly Chief Clerk's office. 3'x5' nylon U.S. flags cost \$9.50 each and 3'x5' nylon Wisconsin flags cost \$13.50 each. If you would like to purchase flags through my office, you will need to send a check payable to the "Assembly Chief Clerk" with an indication of the number of each type of flag to my office at: Rep. Mike Sheridan, PO Box 8953, Madison, WI 53708. Please be sure to include a phone number where I can reach you in case I have questions about your order.

U.S. & Wisconsin Flags Available for Purchase



Rep. Sheridan and (Whiteaker) with a Harrison Elementary school group.

We are fortunate to have an extremely impressive Capitol building. In addition to being the only granite dome in the United States, our Capitol is the fourth largest dome in the country. Completed in 1917, the Wisconsin Capitol is filled with beautiful art and rich history. State Capitol tours are free of charge and are offered Monday through Saturday at 9:00, 10:00, 11:00 a.m., and 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m.; and Sundays at 1:00, 2:00, 3:00 p.m. I hope that you will stop by my office to say hello when you are visiting.

State Capitol Tours



MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Legislative Report 2008



MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Committee Assignments:

- Jobs & the Economy
Ranking Democrat
- Labor & Industry
- Transportation
- Speaker's Task Force on Information Technology



Useful Phone Numbers:

- Governor Jim Doyle
608-266-1212
- Lt. Gov. Barbara Lawton
608-266-3516
- US Sen. Herb Kohl
800-247-5645
- US Sen. Russ Feingold
608-828-1200
- US Rep. Paul Ryan
608-752-4050
- State Sen. Judy Robson
800-334-1468

Dear Neighbors:

As the 2007-2008 Legislative Session draws to a close, I would like to thank you for the opportunity to continue to serve you in our State Assembly. I would like to provide you with a brief update on this legislative session.

While the Legislature has addressed some important issues like preserving the SeniorCare prescription drug benefit for seniors and expanding BadgerCare to cover more uninsured working families, there are still many tough issues to tackle. From health care reform to tax fairness to promoting a healthier and stronger economy, the Legislature has long ignored many issues that are important to the people of Wisconsin. I will continue to fight to put real values ahead of politics as usual.

In order to better represent you, this newsletter includes a brief questionnaire that covers many of the issues that have been under consideration by the Legislature. Since these issues will likely come up again next session, I would greatly appreciate it if you could take a moment to fill it out and return it to me in the mail.

Thank you again for the honor of serving our community in the State Assembly. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your questions, concerns and suggestions.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN
 State Representative
 44th Assembly District

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

PLACE FIRST CLASS POSTAGE HERE



MICHAEL J. SHERIDAN
 STATE REPRESENTATIVE
 STATE CAPITOL, P.O. BOX 8953
 MADISON, WI 53708

Name (please print) _____
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