



SUE JESKEWITZ

STATE REPRESENTATIVE • 24TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

2008 SPRING UPDATE

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State Representative • 24th Assembly District

Dear Friends,

Working for you in the 24th Assembly District and in Madison continues to be exciting and challenging. I am honored and proud to represent such a dynamic, involved and aware district.

Our biggest challenge this spring has been fixing the \$650 million budget deficit, but at the time of my deadline for this newsletter, discussions were still ongoing on the Budget Repair bill. Despite the Republican agenda to hold the line on taxes, last summer and fall the Governor somehow thought we could come up with \$652 million to fund lots of new and expanding programs. Once again, he thinks a wish list comes first, and next comes billing the taxpayers for the costs.

My colleagues and I in the Republican caucus want government to run as lean as possible. We maintain that solutions to our budget crisis cannot come from tax increases, but rather from cutting spending and maximizing efficiencies, just like you and I would do in our own budgets.

Holding the line isn't easy, but please know that I always consider all your comments when you contact me about any issue. Also keep in mind that when it comes time to cast my vote on the budget I must vote on the whole "package" and not separately on each individual component.

As long as we maintain the focus that we are here to serve the people of Wisconsin and to help them be productive in their lives, safe at home, work and school, and continue to enable them to make the best decisions for their families, we will have done our jobs.

In January, Pastor Bill Beyer was a guest of the Assembly and offered the following quote in his invocation: "When God looks out His window, Wisconsin is the view He likes the best." I hope you enjoy it as much as I do!

Best wishes for a safe and happy summer.

Sue Jeskewitz
Your State Representative



KEEP IN TOUCH!

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My Committees

- Committee on Audit (Chair)
- Committee on Children and Family Law
- Committee on Colleges and Universities
- Committee on Ways and Means
- Joint Legislative Audit Committee (Co-chair)
- Joint Survey Committee on Retirement Systems (Co-chair)

YOUR VOICE IN MADISON!

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE SUE JESKEWITZ

2007-08 Legislative Priorities

AB 544/SB 292 Human Trafficking—**PASSED**

Human trafficking is a horrendous crime and modern day form of slavery. Wisconsin needed to augment federal laws by defining this as a specific offense in our statutes thereby ensuring that state officials have the appropriate resources to prosecute these criminals. Governor Doyle signed the Senate companion SB 292 on March 19, 2008.

AB 792 Collegiate Transfer Programs at Technical Colleges

Property taxpayers should not be expected to subsidize four year college degrees by virtue of attending a Technical College with lower tuition. Collegiate transfer programs in the Wisconsin Technical College System currently recover approximately 37% of their costs from tuition (higher than state minimum requirement of 31%). This bill raises that amount to at least 42 percent in 2009-10 and at least 50 percent in 2010-11.

AB 676 - Access to Juvenile Court Records—**PASSED**

AB 676 seeks to prevent the removal of a child from their home under the guise of protective placement and then turning around and placing that child in a home where that abuse may continue due to incomplete information provided to child protective social workers. We must give these workers access to information they need to protect these already abused and vulnerable children. **AB 676 passed both houses of the legislature, however Governor Doyle vetoed it.**



Sue and new Children and Families Secretary Reggie Bicha.

Foster Kids Aging Out

Last year, approximately 440 youth aged-out of Wisconsin's foster care system. Most of them are ill-prepared and lack basic support systems to live productively on their own.

During my tenure in the legislature I have worked to find needed support for these young people. I find it troubling that they are often alone in this world when they reach 18 without an adult support system that many of us take for granted.

A recent midwest study provides strong evidence that youth who are allowed to remain in foster care past 18 are more likely to pursue higher education, earn higher wages and delay pregnancy. Wisconsin needs to follow Illinois' lead and extend care to foster youth until age 21.



Badger Girls State Governor Maria Myles addresses the Assembly.

2007-08 Joint Legislative Audit Committee (JLAC)

For a third consecutive session, I am honored to continue as the Assembly Chair of this committee. The biggest change for the 2007-08 Session is that with a split legislature I now have a Democrat as my Co-Chair.

The committee's charge continues to be directing and monitoring the work of the Legislative Audit Bureau (LAB). This is accomplished through approving new audits, holding public hearings on released audits and ensuring that state agencies implement audit recommendations.

The JLAC's role in ensuring agencies implement audit recommendations is very important, especially when a program is spending taxpayer dollars irresponsibly. Such is the case with Audit Report 07-5, A Review: Information Technology Projects, released in April 2007. The audit cited a lack of project management and poor planning for the cost overruns and compromised timeliness. My co-chair and I held two hearings in 2007 and I expect to continue follow-up in 2008. We must hold agencies accountable on how they spend taxpayer dollars and ensure that the mistakes of the past aren't repeated in the future.

In addition to our formal meetings, my Co-Chair and I convened a Workgroup on Economic Development to implement recommendations contained in LAB's Audit Report 06-9, A review of State Economic Development Programs. The work of this committee led to the introduction of companion bills, Assembly Bill 741 and Senate Bill 434. These bills make a number of statutory changes to eliminate or consolidate several of the over 152 programs identified in the audit, requires programs to establish goals and benchmarks, makes changes to reporting requirements and provides access to reported information via the internet. I am happy to report that AB 741 passed the Legislature and the Governor sign it into law on March 20, 2008.

For more information on the LAB or what's happening on the JLAC please visit <http://www.legis.state.wi.us/lab/>.

Watch floor session & committee hearings at the State Capitol or civic events and campaign programming by tuning in to

WisconsinEye on television (Time Warner Channel 163 in Southeast Wisconsin) or online at <http://www.wiseye.org>

