

2008 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



Terry joined seven-time Tour de France Champion Lance Armstrong and Governor Jim Doyle in supporting the Breathe-Free Wisconsin Act to ensure smoke-free workplaces statewide.

Representative **TERRY MOULTON**

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**Pocketbook Savings for Families & Seniors**

**HOLDING THE LINE ON PROPERTY TAXES** – Many homeowners are already paying too much in property taxes. Working together, we renewed the Property Tax Freeze for another two years to help keep local property taxes in check. **(Act 20)**

**RETIREMENT INCOME TAX CUT** – Making Wisconsin the best place in the nation to retire is an ongoing challenge. Next year, senior couples with incomes less than \$30,000 will be able to exempt \$5,000 of retirement/pension income from their state taxes. **(Act 20)**

**HELPING PARENTS WITH THEIR CHILD CARE EXPENSES** – Parents already get a tax break on their federal taxes for child care expenses. Beginning next year, parents will be able to deduct a portion of their child care expenses from their state tax too. **(Act 20)**

**MAKING A COLLEGE EDUCATION AFFORDABLE** – To help parents offset the costs of putting their kids through college, we expanded the income tax deduction to include student fees and increased the max deduction to \$6,000. **(Act 20)**

[www.terrymoulton.org](http://www.terrymoulton.org)

**Helpful Resources**

**The New Terry Moulton Website**

I encourage you to stop by my new website [www.terrymoulton.org](http://www.terrymoulton.org) to get valuable information about me and the goings-on in the Legislature.

**Moulton Memo**

If you'd like to stay up-to-date on issues before the Legislature, you can sign up to get my regular e-update, the *Moulton Memo*. Just e-mail me at [Rep.Moulton@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Moulton@legis.wi.gov) and say you want the *Memo*.

**Informative Publications**

My office in Madison is happy to help you in anyway we can. We offer a number of services and can provide you with a variety of informative publications. If you would like any of the following items, just e-mail me at [Rep.Moulton@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Moulton@legis.wi.gov) or call (888) 534-0068

- ✓ Wisconsin State Blue Book
- ✓ Wisconsin State Highway Map
- ✓ Wisconsin Golf Course Directory
- ✓ WI Summer Recreation Guide
- ✓ Arts and Craft Fair Directory
- ✓ Wisconsin Official Travel Guide

[www.terrymoulton.org](http://www.terrymoulton.org)

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Representative **TERRY MOULTON**



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is my honor to serve as your representative in the State Assembly. The way I see it, my job is to put your needs ahead of the wants of state government. When you sent me back to Madison, rather than getting bogged down in the partisan bickering, I listened to you and your neighbors and got to work with Democrats and Republicans who wanted to get things done.

We began our session by changing the way Madison does business. The first vote I took this session was to create the Government Accountability Board, addressing the need for comprehensive ethics and elections reform. The non-partisan Board will have the full authority to investigate criminal and civil violations of the state's ethics, campaign finance, and elections law, helping keep your elected officials responsible to you.

As Chair of the Committee on Small Business and Vice-Chair of the Committee on Health Care Reform, I established my priorities early on: hold the line on taxes, fight for reform in our health care system, and help small businesses create good jobs right here in the Chippewa Valley. I'm proud to say we have had success on each of those fronts.

Working together we passed a budget that lived within the means of taxpayers, by holding down spending and setting priorities. We have worked with Governor Doyle to jump-start our economy and I have worked on more than a dozen different proposals to enact real health care reform, including several signed into law.

I encourage you to go to my website [www.terrymoulton.org](http://www.terrymoulton.org), call my office at (888) 534-0068 or e-mail me at [Rep.Moulton@legis.wi.gov](mailto:Rep.Moulton@legis.wi.gov) if you have any questions or if I can be of assistance to you.

Best Regards,

**Terry Moulton**  
State Representative  
68th Assembly District

**KEEP IN TOUCH**

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**TERRY'S COMMITTEES IN THE STATE ASSEMBLY**

- Small Business (Chair)
- Health and Health Care Reform (Vice-Chair)
- Natural Resources
- Insurance
- Public Health

Representing the areas of Eau Claire, Chippewa Falls, Altoona, & Fall Creek

# TERRY MOULTON: Working for the Chippewa Valley

## Leading the Way on Health Care Reform

**ELIMINATING TAX ON HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS** – By eliminating state tax on insurance premiums, we were able to instantly reduce health care costs by \$150 million. **(Act 20)**

**USING TECHNOLOGY TO REDUCE COSTS** – I authored a bill to expand the use of electronic medical records. Experts tell us a modern, integrated record keeping system would save over \$80 billion nationwide. **(Act 20)**

**AFFORDABLE DRUGS FOR SENIORS** – As prescription drug costs continue to rise, it's more important than ever that seniors have access to life saving medication at an affordable price. That's why I worked with Republicans and Democrats to renew SeniorCare. **(Act 20)**

**HEALTH CARE PRICE DISCLOSURE** – I authored legislation to shine a light on the cost of health care services. In many cases the same quality procedure can vary by as much as four times between hospitals yet that doesn't affect how we purchase health care services; my bills work to fix that. **(AB 872 & AB 729)**

**HEALTH CARE QUALITY IMPROVEMENT ACT** – Right now good faith efforts to improve health care quality and delivery are stymied by lawsuit threats from trial lawyers. I authored this bill to allow doctors and nurses to honestly and more efficiently evaluate their practices. **(AB 863)**

**FUNDING FOR CANCER SCREENING** – I fought for and won a budget amendment to increase funding to the Wisconsin Well Woman Program to expand breast and cervical cancer screenings in NW Wisconsin. **(Act 20)**

**LEADING THE NATION IN HEALTH CARE REFORM** – On Feb. 1st, families began enrolling in BadgerCare Plus, an innovative program offering access to comprehensive, affordable health care for all children, working families and pregnant women in Wisconsin. **(Act 20)**

**eHEALTH QUALITY REFORM** – I worked with the Governor, the Secretary of Health and Family Services and statewide health care leaders to reform our information exchange laws, giving doctors access to vital health information. **(Act 108)**

**WORKPLACE WELLNESS** – Preventable disease accounts for 75% of all health care cost. Yet we only spend 7¢ of every health care dollar on prevention. I authored a bill that encourages small businesses to implement wellness programs. **(AB 235)**



Terry has been recognized as a leader in the Legislature on Health Care Reform.

## Getting Our Local Economy Back on Track

**WORKER EDUCATION TAX CREDIT** – I offered this bill to encourage businesses to invest in a highly trained workforce by providing a 50% tax credit for higher education tuition paid by an employer, 75% if the employee is low-income. **(AB 67)**

**INVESTING IN NANOTECHNOLOGY** – Nanotechnology is expected to be a \$1 trillion industry by 2015, and the Chippewa Valley has the opportunity to be on the cutting edge. My bill creates a tax credit for the purchases used by a nanotechnology business for research, development or manufacturing. **(AB 635)**

**ANGEL INVESTMENT EXPANSION** – Working with Gov. Doyle, we increased incentives for the state's popular Angel Investment program to draw more investment in Wisconsin. We have also put forth bills to provide greater incentives and flexibility. **(AB 557 & AB 598)**

**REFORMING WISCONSIN'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM** – Following a 2006 audit that showed nearly two dozen programs were inactive, and that 1/3 of all grants and

loans awarded went to only three counties, we passed a bill to clean up, consolidate, and streamline our economic development programs. **(Act 125)**

**CAPITAL GAINS REINVESTMENT** – Wisconsin currently taxes 40% of an individual's capital gains. Our bill would eliminate that tax if the capital gain is re-invested in a Wisconsin business. **(AB 671)**

**WEST-CENTRAL WI TECHNOLOGY ZONE** – I joined area legislators from both parties to add needed funding to the Technology Zone tax credit program, which has been extremely successful in helping local businesses create family-supporting jobs in the Chippewa Valley. **(AB 789)**

**INCENTIVES FOR INNOVATION** – This bill creates an Eligible Innovation Project Tax Credit program, which grants tax credits to Wisconsin businesses that invest in next generation technologies with emphasis in research and development in the biotech and nanotech fields. **(AB 696)**

## Holding the Line on Taxes

Last Fall during budget negotiations, I worked with my Assembly colleagues to stop the largest state tax increase in American history. All told we eliminated \$16.4 billion or 98% of the Senate's proposed tax hikes, including:

- ✓ **PAYROLL TAX** ..... **\$15.2 billion**
- ✓ **NURSING HOME BED TAX** .... **\$35 million**
- ✓ **GAS TAX** ..... **7¢/gallon**
- ✓ **SICK TAX** ..... **\$418 million**
- ✓ **JOBS TAX** ..... **\$131 million**
- ✓ **REAL ESTATE TAXES** ..... **\$152 million**
- ✓ **SALES TAX** ..... **\$10 million**
- ✓ **TAX TAX** ..... **\$5.6 million**
- ✓ **IPOD TAX** ..... **\$3.4 million**

As frustrating as the budget delay was, by holding the line on taxes, we saved a family of four more than \$100 in tax hikes every day of the budget impasse.

## Delivering on Important Issues

**CABLE CHOICE IS ON THE HORIZON** – As cable prices continue to soar, a bipartisan group of legislators banded together and passed legislation to inject some much need competition into the cable market.

According to a Government Accountability Office study, this bill will lower cable prices anywhere from 15-41%. While this won't happen overnight, more than a dozen cable providers have already applied for statewide video franchises. I'm hopeful that in the near future, we will see some competition in the Chippewa Valley. **(Act 42)**

**MOVE OVER LAW** – It's all too frequent on our highways that officers, construction workers and emergency personnel are struck and killed by passing motorists. Working with law enforcement groups and Sen. Kreitlow, I authored a bill to require the state's "Move-Over Law" be taught in all drivers' education courses. Gov. Doyle signed it into law. **(Act 68)**

**FIGHTING OUT-OF-STATE WASTE** – Wisconsin cannot continue to be the dumping grounds for the Midwest. In the bipartisan state budget, we raised the state's tipping fee by 55%. I have co-sponsored a bill to raise it further in an effort to stem the flow of Minnesota trash coming into our landfills. **(Act 20)**

## Investing in Our Children's Future and Safe Schools

**SCHOOL AIDS, OUR STATE'S TOP FUNDING PRIORITY** – Over the next two years, classrooms across Wisconsin will see the largest increase in our state's history—a total of more than \$12.3 billion in state aid. **(Act 20)**

**ENSURING MORE LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES FOR OUR KIDS** – Today, more than 3,000 Wisconsin kids learn on-line through virtual schools. Because of a recent lawsuit by the state teachers' union, those kids were going to lose that opportunity. I stood with a bipartisan group of legislators to keep these innovative schools open. **(Act 222)**

**TAKING CARE OF OUR SPECIAL NEEDS STUDENTS** – Through a bipartisan effort and the support of Gov. Doyle, local school districts will receive an extra \$53 million in special education aid. **(Act 20)**

**NO FELONS IN SCHOOLS** – Children cannot learn and teachers cannot teach if they do not feel safe in their classrooms. I joined with my Assembly colleagues to allow school districts to deny employment to convicted felons. **(AB 30)**

**TRACKING DOWN DANGEROUS CHILD PREDATORS** – Working with Attorney General Van Hollen, we secured additional funding for investigators to track down sex predators who use the Internet to prey on unsuspecting children. **(Act 5 & Act 20)**



Terry visits with school kids and talks about technology in the classroom.