

Representative **JOHN
NYGREN**

PRSRT STD
U.S. Postage
PAID
Permit #1749
Madison, WI

P.O. Box 8953
Madison, WI 53708-8953

*****ECRWSS*****
RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



John Nygren signs the Official Register, with his wife and children at his side during the Wisconsin State Assembly 2007 Inauguration, held at the State Capitol on January 3rd.

Taxes and the Economy

Wisconsin's economy is in a constant state of evolution and change and I have been working to make sure the state provides the tools needed to grow Wisconsin's economy. I have worked to keep taxes and government spending in line with Wisconsin's ability to pay. I have been consistent in voting against out of control government spending. I have also been strongly against increasing taxes on individuals, families and businesses. In addition, I have worked to reduce government regulation, which deters economic growth in Wisconsin. The strength of Wisconsin's economy is hard-working families, dedicated employees and small businesses. Encouraging investment, focusing government assistance and lowering the tax burden on Wisconsin families are all sure-fire investments in Wisconsin's economy. I will continue my work to make sure our government works with our businesses and our state's economy, not stand in their way.

I will be sending out periodic E-mail updates from my Madison Office regarding legislative activities and other information I believe is valuable to my constituents. If you would like to be included on this list, please call or e-mail my office at Rep.Nygren@legis.wi.gov and state "add me to E-Mail Updates".

2008 County Fairs

AUGUST 13 – 17

Brown County Fair, DePere

AUGUST 21 – 24

Oconto County Fair, Gillett

AUGUST 21 – 24

Marinette County Fair, Wausaukee

JULY 31 – AUGUST 10

Wisconsin State Fair, Milwaukee/West Allis

Additional information is available at the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP). You can call their office at **(608) 224-5100** or visit their website at <http://datcp.state.wi.us/mktg/business/marketing/fairs>

Representative **JOHN
NYGREN**



KEEP IN TOUCH WITH JOHN!

Room 127 West, State Capitol
Post Office Box 8953
Madison, Wisconsin 53708

Phone: 608-266-2343
Toll-Free: 888-534-0089
District: 715-330-5402
FAX: 608-282-3689

E-mail:
Rep.Nygren@legis.wi.gov

COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

Insurance, *vice-chair*
Health and Healthcare Reform
Education
Jobs and the Economy

From the desk of John Nygren...

Dear Friends,

We are all too aware of the difficult economic times we face as a state and a nation. In Wisconsin, we find ourselves at a crossroads in our history. Our government is spending at a rate out of pace with your ability to pay. We have a choice to make; spend less or tax more?

I believe it is vitally important to remain true to the strong values and principals of Northeast Wisconsin, now more than ever. Values such as hard work, smaller government, reduced spending, and lower taxes. It is these principals which brought me to Madison and they will remain at my core, as long as you allow me to serve. On your behalf, I will continue to stand up to increased government spending, and say no to increased taxes and government regulation.

My first term in Madison has been both productive and rewarding; I feel I am making a difference on behalf of you, the residents of the 89th District. I have fought for and passed legislation which serves the needs and interest of those I represent and yet I know we have much work to do.

To effectively represent you, I need to hear from you. Please feel free to contact my office with your concerns. I take my responsibility as your representative very seriously.

Yours in service,

John Nygren
State Representative
89th Assembly District

SERVING PARTS OF BROWN, MARINETTE, OCONTO, AND SHAWANO COUNTY!

JOHN NYGREN: *Real-World Issues...Real-World Solutions*

An Update on Highway 41 Expansion Project

Oconto to Peshtigo

As I have met with residents throughout the 89th Assembly District this past year, one of the top issues of discussion was that of keeping the Highway 41 project on schedule.

This has been and will remain a top priority for me in seeing this project move forward as planned. I am consistently kept up to date on the progress of Highway 41 by the Department of Transportation's Northeast Regional Director, Mike Berg. I am happy to report that paving between Oconto and Peshtigo is scheduled to be completed, on time, by the end of 2008. In addition, the Improvement Project for Highway 41 will be

completed in fall of 2009. I have worked with the Department of Transportation and the State Legislature to ensure that the necessary funding has been allocated for this project and that everything remains on track.

I will continue to work with officials at the Department of Transportation's Northeast Regional Office to make sure the project's timeframe remains on schedule.

If you would like up-to-date information regarding the project, you can do so by going to the following website:
<http://www.dot.wisconsin.gov/projects/d3/us41oconto/index.htm>

Improving Health Care

Working to lower the cost of health care, improve disclosure of the cost of health care, and improve patient safety with better record-keeping.

The rising cost of health care is one of my biggest concerns for families throughout the 89th Assembly District. This legislative session, I have worked tirelessly to pass numerous health care reforms through the Assembly.

I understand that families across the district are struggling with the high cost of health care. I have worked to pass bipartisan legislation that looks to ease those struggles. I have supported efforts to put health care dollars and decisions back in the hands of patients and families. Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) have already proven to be an effective and affordable health plan for both businesses and local governments. I worked to help pass Assembly Bill 47 to bring Wisconsin in line with the existing federal tax deduction, providing a state tax deduction for this innovative program. In addition to AB 47, I worked to pass important legislation to provide a state income tax deduction for health insurance premiums paid by employees who pay part of their health insurance premiums.

Another important tool in combating high health care costs is to disclose the costs of health care procedures and treatments to patients. I co-sponsored Assembly Bill 872, which passed on a bipartisan 66-29 vote through the Assembly, to require health care providers to present a good-faith cost estimate to a patient who requests it. Unfortunately, under current law, a patient who wants to know how much a procedure costs has no right to obtain that information from health care providers. You should have the ability to shop around, like you do for other goods and services, to get the best service for your hard earned money.

Each of these reforms takes a real-world approach toward improving the quality and cost of health care in Wisconsin. I believe that these and many other consumer driven health care reforms are vital to lowering the cost of health care while maintaining quality treatment.

LEGISLATIVE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

My legislative successes are your legislative accomplishments and thanks to you, the 89th Assembly district continues to leave its mark on Wisconsin by sponsoring and enacting many important laws, representative of the 89th. Every day I am contacted by constituents who encourage me to sponsor legislation and stand up for their beliefs. Without the help of my constituents these legislative successes would not have been possible. To date, I have sponsored 30 bills and co-sponsored 229 bills and resolutions on behalf of constituents like you. The following are just a few of the many legislative successes the 89th Assembly District accomplished this legislative session. *And to think, we have only just begun...*

Allowing Local Elected Officials to Forego His or Her Salary

I was contacted by a local government official who is retired and wanted to donate his time and knowledge to his community without receiving compensation. I was amazed to learn that under current law, a local official must accept the salary and pay income taxes prior to returning the money to their respective community. As a result, I worked in a bipartisan manner to sponsor and lead the effort in the Assembly to pass Senate Bill 280, allowing local elected officials who wish to volunteer their time and knowledge to their community to do so without being subject to paying taxes by "donating" their salaries. On February 8, 2008 Governor Doyle along side myself signed Senate Bill 280 in law!

Assembly Passes Wetland Mitigation Bill

At the request of the City of Oconto, State Senator Dave Hansen and I introduced Assembly Bill 259 to address the situation which occurred when Department of Transportation purchased land within the City's limits for wetland mitigation. The Department of Transportation needed to acquire wetlands for the Highway 41 project and as a result purchased a piece of property that the city had designated for future commercial or industrial use. Mayor Nerenhausen informed me of the situation and I quickly introduced legislation to address this problem. After AB 259 passed the Assembly, I worked with the Department of Transportation to organize a meeting in hopes of reaching a compromise beneficial to all parties involved. After many vigorous hours of meetings between City of Oconto officials, the Department of Transportation, and I, we were able to come to an agreement which would sell back the land purchased by the Department of Transportation to the City of Oconto for \$1 after the Department was finished with the land. The passage of AB 259 out of the Assembly pressured the Department of Transportation to agree to a solution that would benefit the City of Oconto and its residents.



Rep. Nygren is congratulated by Governor Doyle, Senator Roesler, and others for his work on getting AB 280 signed into law.

Rep. Nygren's Student Health Insurance Bill Signed into Law

I have had many legislative successes this year, but none more important than Assembly Bill 280. As Vice-Chairman of the Assembly's Committee on Insurance, I introduced Assembly Bill 280 to allow college and technical college students on medical leave with serious illnesses to keep their health insurance for up to a twelve month period. I worked with Democrat and Republican legislators to ensure that students have the opportunity to focus on recovery from serious illnesses instead of worrying about whether or not their medical bills are still being covered.

I introduced this legislation on behalf of a constituent, Zack Grun, who after going through two major medical surgeries, felt compelled to maintain his full-time college student status at U.W.-Marquette in order to continue receiving coverage under his parent's health insurance plan. It is my belief that students with serious illnesses should not be forced to carry a full course load just to maintain their health insurance. They need to focus on recovering not studying. Zack's story inspired me to introduce this legislation and work diligently with Republicans, Democrats and Governor Doyle to get this bill signed into law. On November 28, 2007 AB 280 was signed into law, allowing students to focus on recuperating first and continue their education later.



Representative Nygren addresses the Assembly regarding lowering the cost of health care.

Watch floor session & committee hearings at the State Capitol or civic events and campaign programming by tuning in to *WisconsinEye* on television or online at <http://www.wiseye.org>

