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RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER



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Dear Friends,

There is the saying that the more things change the more they stay the same. In the last newsletter I told you about the main areas that we as a legislature dealt with. Education, transportation and the efforts to protect our neighborhoods from sexually violent persons still topped the list of items we worked on. Health care and the efforts to ensure an open and accurate election process continued to move up the list of priorities. While we have seen progress and positive developments in these areas, more still needs to be done.

Dramatic developments have taken place in the fight to better protect our children and families from the worst of the worst sexual predators. Included in the budget was funding to provide for GPS monitoring and active tracking for those being released back into society. I was able to see a similar system in place in Kansas and to say the results are encouraging would be selling the effort short. I also undertook an effort to have a restraining order placed on those convicted of rape as a condition of release. This effort will continue into the next session.

Work is also continuing on efforts to deal regionally with issues. Infrastructure, employment and environmental issues are all being discussed with an eye on how all of Southeastern Wisconsin is impacted. The continuing work on the Marquette interchange, the finalizing of plans for the I-94 North-South reconstruction and the beginning of the studies for the Zoo Interchange project will impact the entire area. Discussions dealing with regional transit have also begun in earnest. The Great Lakes water compact is fast becoming a major issue for the region. The Milwaukee 7, the regional economic development organization, has become more aggressive in efforts to both retain and recruit new businesses to the region.

Health care issues will continue to foster debate and discussion. This one topic stands the chance to be the dominate topic in the next legislative session. The Government's role in health care is a work in progress. Just how involved the Government gets in your healthcare will have a dramatic impact on the economy and on each of your own lives.

It has always been and remains a great privilege to be able to serve the residents of the 82nd Assembly District. I look forward to continuing the efforts to keep our area a great place to live and raise a family. I look forward to seeing you out and about this spring and summer. If there is anything I can be of help with please give me a call.

All the Best!



Rep. Stone introducing "Project Kidsafe" and the GPS monitoring of sexually violent persons.

Legislative Update

Health Care

Health Care certainly is becoming a focus for everyone in the district and the State. This session there were some positive steps made that will lead to improvements in your health care. The item that I am most proud of was the inclusion in the State Budget funding to help the Medical College of Wisconsin acquire a 7 Tesla MRI long bore scanner. The information this equipment will provide will help scientists better understand the change in brain functions when faced with such illnesses as Alzheimer's, Parkinson's and other neuro-disorders. It is this type of research being done right here in our area that will one day help those that suffer from these diseases.

We also were able to pass legislation that will help the average family with the costs involved with health care. Health insurance premiums are now deductible; unfortunately the Senate blocked the effort to make health savings accounts tax free. A workplace wellness tax credit was also passed this last session. This credit will help

encourage employers to offer forward-thinking benefits to their employees such as fitness or nutrition programs in addition to smoking cessation and weight management classes. As we are all aware it is less expensive to maintain health than to cure illness. More work needs to be done to help ensure that we continue to receive exceptional health care services here in our area. I would also like to welcome Wheaton-Franciscan as they increase their presence in Franklin with a brand new hospital on South 27th St.

- 7 Tesla MRI for Medical College of Wisconsin. *(passed as part of the budget)*
- Health insurance premium tax deductibility. *(passed as part of the budget)*
- Workplace wellness tax credit *(AB-235 passed)*
- HSA tax deductibility *(AB-47; Senate failed to act on the bill)*
- Health Care Price Disclosure *(AB-872; Senate failed to act on the bill)*

Election Reform

This continues to be an area of frustration for me as your legislator. I have been fighting to restore the belief that Wisconsin has open and accurate elections. I continue to champion the use

of a photo ID in order to receive a ballot to vote. I had authored a Joint Resolution that would have put the requirement for a photo ID into our State Constitution. AJR-36 passed first consideration in 2006 and was introduced for second consideration. AJR-17 passed the Assembly in 2007 and went to the Senate for final consideration. The next step would have been to include the wording on a statewide ballot for everyone to have their voice heard on how we run our elections. With the US Supreme Court's recent 6 – 3 ruling in favor of Indiana's Photo ID Law, it is becoming more difficult to understand the objections being used to oppose this common sense requirement. I also introduced legislation that would better check on Address Verification Cards for same day registrants that are returned to the clerks. AB-903 would have raised the bar on how AVC are processed, verified and investigated when needed. Both efforts to improve our election processes will continue.

Public Safety

Heading into this last legislative session, my top priority was to pass legislation that would require the tracking of the worst of the worst sex offenders. Project Kid-safe was an effort that I undertook with Representative Suder and Kleefisch. Citizens for a safe Wisconsin were also instrumental in this effort. The central item with Project Kid-safe was the creation of a GPS tracking system that would allow for the continuous monitoring of the Chapter 980 sexual offenders being released back into society. Billy Morford is the type of

person this program is aimed at monitoring. I witnessed first hand how this program works in Kansas and hold out great expectations for our program here in Wisconsin. Other areas that we made good progress in are helping the Attorney General's office deal with the crime lab backlog and authorizing the expansion of the sexual offender treatment facility at Sand Ridge. The Republicans in the Assembly were successful in blocking an effort by the Governor and the Senate to change the truth in sentencing rules in Wisconsin. There are two items that I was not able to get passed during this last session, however I will continue to push both next session. One was to create a permanent restraining order when a rapist is released from prison. As the law works now the victim has to ask the courts for a restraining order. This is a burden that the victim of such a crime should not have to deal with. The second item will be legislation that will have a person convicted of a sexually violent crime, when released, returned to the community of origin. This would eliminate the chance that any one community will become the dumping group for these criminals.

- Project Kid-Safe/GPS tracking *(passed as part of the budget)*
- Crime lab backlog *(passed as part of the budget)*
- 300 bed expansion of Sand Ridge *(passed as part of budget)*
- Blocked change to Truth-In-Sentencing
- AB-790 Restraining order as condition of release *(stalled in committee)*
- AB-656 Operation of motor vehicle after revocation *(passed)*

Rep. Stone discussing regional transportation issues on the 4th Street Forum.

