

SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING

Working for you ... getting results!

NEWS FOR YOU

Protecting Your Pocketbook
Fighting for Health Care Reform
Protecting Our Children
Strengthening Education
The "Stay in Wisconsin" Agenda

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Senator Alberta Darling



Sen. Darling with veteran Charles Queen at the Veterans Day Service in Mequon.



Greeting constituents on the July 4th parade route.



Sen. Darling tours Glenroy, Inc., a Menomonee Falls, family-owned flexible packaging converter.



Sen. Darling speaks with local middle-school students.

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SENATOR

**Alberta
DARLING**

Spring 2008

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

It is an honor representing you in Wisconsin's State Senate.

As your State Senator, my goal is to represent your concerns and values, and to provide exceptional constituent service. The overwhelming message I hear from constituents is your concern about the economy and jobs, the cost of health care and the burden of state spending and taxes. These issues have been at the forefront of my legislative agenda.

State government has to change the way it does business by living within its means, becoming more cost-efficient and producing more value for our tax dollar. By protecting your pocketbook we can create an environment that supports entrepreneurs, innovation and better-paying jobs.

We can grow the economy by investing in our people through education and training for a much-needed skilled workforce. The Education Tax Credit I proposed supports business investment in the people they need to meet market opportunity. "Invest Wisconsin 2.0" offers other strategies for Wisconsin to become a more business-friendly state – for everyone's benefit.

Economic growth cannot take root in a high tax climate. That's why as a member of the Joint Finance Committee, I have voted against tax increases. I have proposed ideas for more fiscal accountability, more incentives to grow our economy, and for reducing health care costs to help us thrive and compete in a global economy.

You expect your Senator to be a leader who gets things done. Please take a moment to read on about my work addressing these issues, and do not hesitate to contact me to offer your suggestions and advice.

Sincerely,

Alberta
ALBERTA DARLING
STATE SENATOR



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www.legis.wi.gov/senate/sen08/

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Working for you ... getting results!**Protecting Your Pocketbook**

My economic agenda this session is aimed at job growth and reducing the tax burden on Wisconsin families and businesses. As a member of the Joint Finance Committee, I stood firm in opposition to tax increases, and worked on initiatives to strengthen our economy and create high-quality jobs.

Throughout the last session, I fought to:

- Enact a real property tax freeze
- Cut income tax rates for all taxpayers



Sen. Darling announces legislation to provide GPS-tracking of dangerous sex offenders.

- Reduce other taxes on seniors, families, and employers
- Support the Invest Wisconsin 2.0 plan to strengthen our economy and create high-quality jobs
- Remove the Governor's proposed tax increases on gasoline, health care services and home sales
- Oppose over \$18 billion in tax hikes proposed in the Senate, in what would have been the largest state tax increase in American history
- Reduce the level of government spending

Government can survive tough economic times without raising taxes. When I co-chaired the Joint Finance Committee, our budget cut state government operation spending by 27.5% and sliced the deficit in half.

Protecting Our Children

My strong advocacy for the safety of children led to my introduction of the landmark Sexual Predator Law, and enabled me to serve as the chair of the Special Committee on Review of Crimes Against Children.

Working with law enforcement and victim advocates, we developed Senate Bill 103, hailed by one prosecutor as "one of the most important child protection reforms of the last 10 years." This new law builds on my work over the years in passing several tough measures to defend children and punish sexual predators.

Fighting for Health Care Reform

I successfully fought to increase funding for breast cancer and cervical screening services under the Wisconsin Well Woman Program, and continue to work on an agenda based on common-sense principles.

Also, several provisions of my "Smart Medicine" plan for health care reform were passed into law. Resulting from my work as co-chair of the 2006 Senate Select Committee on Health Care Reform, the goals of "Smart Medicine" include:

- Access to affordable, quality health care services for everyone in Wisconsin
- A reduction in the cost of health care
- Attainable health insurance coverage for the 7% of uninsured whose costs are currently shifted

to taxpayers and the private market

- Greater focus on evidence-based, value-added solutions
- Greater activity in the area of prevention, wellness and disease management
- Strong investment in Pay for Performance to improve the quality of care
- Implement incentives and disincentives to encourage results

"Wisconsin needs health care reform that gives people more control of their coverage, their dollars and their medical decisions."

SENATOR ALBERTA DARLING

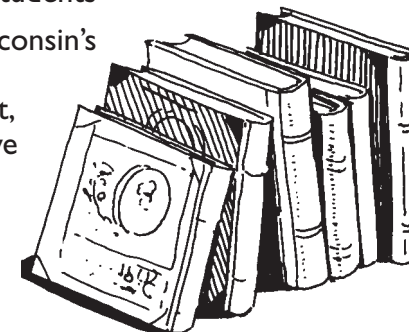
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A former teacher, Alberta enjoys her annual tours of local schools.

Strengthening Education

A strong education system is the key to our future. This session, I have fought to:

- Increase funding for K-12 education
- Provide equitable state aid for our school districts
- Protect the parental school choice program
- Eliminate residency requirements for MPS teachers
- Provide an education tax credit for businesses looking to expand their skilled workforce
- Address the achievement gap for minority and disadvantaged students
- Strengthen Wisconsin's college savings program, EdVest, for which I serve as Board Chair

**The "Stay in Wisconsin" Agenda**

Early this year I unveiled my "Stay in Wisconsin" plan, a series of initiatives designed to encourage seniors and college graduates to remain in our state.

"We can't change the weather, but we can change our tax climate and job creation opportunities."

The "retirement package" portion of Stay in Wisconsin will make various tax changes for seniors to make Wisconsin a more attractive place to retire, including:

- Permanently eliminating the estate tax
- Eliminating the tax on retirement income
- Reducing the capital gains tax
- Including retirement income for the married couple tax credit
- Increasing the personal tax exemption for senior filers
- Increasing the property tax credit for seniors
- Increasing income tax exemption limits for senior filers

The Stay in Wisconsin plan will also make all student loan interest 100% tax deductible to limit the "brain drain" by retaining the best and brightest college graduates to work and raise a family in Wisconsin.



Sen. Darling was among those awarded for "exceptional work serving seniors" by the Coalition of Wisconsin Aging Groups.