

Time for Tax Fairness

Franklin Delano Roosevelt said taxes are the dues we pay for membership in an organized society. We all understand the necessity of taxes. And so it bothers us when some people get out of paying their fair share.

The Wisconsin Department of Revenue estimates that the difference between taxes owed and taxes collected is \$4-6 billion annually. Sixty-two percent of the largest corporations operating in Wisconsin – those with receipts of \$100 million or more – pay no corporate income tax, according to the Department of Revenue. They reduce their tax liability by creating dummy subsidiaries and shuffling assets.

Three bills have been introduced in the Legislature to make sure that everyone pays their fair share. Assembly Bill 328/Senate Bill 210 would close the “Las Vegas Loop-hole,” which some corporations use to shift their profits to subsidiaries in other states that have no income tax. The subsidiaries exist primarily on paper, and were created solely for tax avoidance.

The Corporate Tax Transparency Act would create new reporting requirements for corporate income tax payments.



Sen. Judy Robson discusses amendments on the Senate floor with her Senate colleagues.

Assembly Bill 452, known as the Home Owner’s Property Exemption (HOPE), would reduce residential property taxes by exempting the first \$60,000 of a home’s value from school property taxes. HOPE would appear as a credit on property tax bills. It would be funded by closing corporate tax loopholes.

I believe it is unfair to let some corporations shirk their tax obligations while responsible corporations

and small businesses pay their fair share. Main Street businesses pay state and local taxes, and donate to community causes. They should not be put at a competitive disadvantage simply because they play by the rules. It’s time for tax fairness.

For status reports on the progress of these bills, feel free to contact me at any time.



Beloit’s Morgan Elementary School visited the State Capitol in 2007. Tours of the State Capitol are available daily, year round. Groups large and small can make reservations or do the self-guided tour. For information, please contact me or go to my website.



HOW TO CONTACT SENATOR ROBSON

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Website: www.legis.state.wi.us/senate/sen15/news/
To sign up for e-Judy Friday reports, just call or e-mail me!

Winter 2008 Report

State Senator Judy Robson

Wisconsin State Senate
P.O. Box 7882, Madison, WI 53707



Dear Friend,

I represent you best when I hear your thoughts. Please take a few minutes to fill out the survey on Page 2 and mail it back to me. My listening sessions are another way for me to hear from you. I hope you can attend one of the sessions listed on this page.

Serving you in the State Senate is an honor and a privilege. Thank you for this opportunity.

Sincerely,
Judy Robson
Judy Robson,
State Senator

LISTENING SESSIONS

Monday, February 11
1:00 - 2:00 p.m.
Beloit Senior Center
631 Bluff Street, Beloit

Monday, February 18
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
Hedberg Public Library
316 S. Main Street, Janesville

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Healthy Wisconsin: Your Choice, Your Plan

Last summer, I led a group of legislators in introducing a long-awaited plan for health care reform. If enacted **Healthy Wisconsin** would transform our health care system so that there no longer will be health care “haves” and “have-nots.”

Everyone will have access to quality, affordable health care and it will be more cost-effective than our current health care system.

Employers and employees will share in the cost of health insurance.

Employees will pay their share through a payroll deduction, like Social Security. Those who are self-employed or not employed will pay their premiums directly to **Healthy Wisconsin**. Children and spouses will be covered under a family plan. People over age 65 will still be covered under Medicare.

Healthy Wisconsin will bring down the costs of health care by streamlining administration and paperwork, which currently account for one of every three dollars spent on health care. **Healthy Wisconsin** will allow us to spend more money on direct care and less on the paper shufflers who deny claims.



Sen. Judy Robson speaks at a press conference announcing Healthy Wisconsin

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