

Rep. Larry Kraft

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2025 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dear Neighbors,

This message comes at a difficult time for our state. It's hard to know how to move forward after the assassination of our leader and friend, Melissa Hortman, and her husband Mark. But honoring her means continuing the work she dedicated her life to: serving the people of Minnesota. It's critical for all of us, regardless of party, to reject hate and dehumanizing language that can fuel political violence.

In the 2024 election, Minnesota voters delivered a rare 67-67 tie in the 134-member House. This result required Democrats and Republicans to govern together.

Unfortunately, the 2025 session began poorly. Republicans walked away from power-sharing negotiations and tried to overturn a valid election. My Democratic colleagues and I denied quorum to protect democracy and the chamber. The Minnesota Supreme Court later ruled the GOP attempt was an unconstitutional power grab.

Despite that rocky start, I'm proud we got our job done and passed a balanced budget. I passed bipartisan legislation on DWI policy, mental health services, and transit access. And Democrats defended nearly all of the major progress we made in 2023: paid family and medical leave, universal school meals, gun violence prevention, clean energy, and more.

I am honored to represent our community and am already working on legislation for the 2026 session.

Sincerely,



State Representative Larry Kraft
Co-chair, House Climate Action Caucus
DFL Vice-chair, Energy Committee
Assistant Leader, House DFL Caucus

Larry
Kraft



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Capitol updates.**

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My 2025 bills that became law

Strengthening DWI Policy to Save Lives

Following the tragedy at Park Tavern last summer, I made it a top priority to strengthen our state's DWI policies, especially for repeat offenders, as the driver had five prior convictions. My bill:

- Significantly increases time repeat offenders must use ignition interlock (a "car breathalyzer").
- Extends the lookback period for prior offenses from 10 to 20 years.
- Removes barriers to getting on interlock.

Making Transit Assistance More Accessible

A big challenge with Metro Transit's reduced-fare Transit Assistance Program (TAP) is awareness. My bill:

- Integrates the TAP program application on the same website where people apply for food and housing assistance.

Supporting Families During Mental Health Crises

I worked with NAMI Minnesota to protect families during mental health crises. My bill:

- Prevents hospitals from reporting parents to child protection because appropriate treatment options aren't available for their kids (amazingly, this has been happening).



Playing Defense

We made such progress the past two years on making Minnesota the best place to live, work, and raise a family. In a tied House, with Republicans focused on rolling back many of our achievements, here's a partial list of the things we successfully defended that Republicans tried to gut or repeal:

- Paid Family & Medical Leave and Earned Sick & Safe Time, so nobody has to choose between earning a paycheck and caring for themselves or a family member.
- 100% Clean Energy by 2040.
- Free school meals so no child has to learn on an empty stomach.
- K-12 education funding linked to inflation for consistent investment in public education.
- Nation-leading ban on non-essential uses of PFAS chemicals linked to cancer & other illnesses.
- Reproductive Freedom and access to abortion.
- My nation-leading climate impact of highways legislation.
- Renewable energy policies like community solar gardens and net metering.
- North Star Promise program for free college tuition at Minnesota State colleges for students in families with less than \$80K of income.
- Gun violence prevention measures.
- Trans rights protections.

Going Forward

At a time when the federal government is kicking hundreds of thousands of Minnesotans off Medicaid, taking food away from the hungry, abandoning the Constitution in order to terrify immigrants, and rolling back national climate policies that were giving us a chance at avoiding the worst impacts of climate change, what we do in Minnesota is even more important.

Addressing climate change is why I got involved in politics. In Minnesota, and other states, we must increase our efforts to fight climate change, and at the same time, fight back against other misguided federal policies. I am committed to not only defending our gains, but finding a path forward, hopefully in a bipartisan fashion, to protect our kids' future.



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