



State Representative
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Dear Neighbors

The 2017 Legislative Session will go down as one of the most productive in recent memory and it has been an honor and privilege to serve our community at the Capitol. It took bipartisan compromise to get things done and that is exactly what we did. We successfully delivered the largest tax relief package for Minnesotans in nearly two decades and the largest investment in roads and bridge infrastructure in state history without a gas tax increase.

I am proud that a similar provision to one I have carried gives a tax credit to families using a 529 Plan to save for college was included in our final tax relief bill. We were able to get significant funding for the Minnesota Zoo: \$3.5 million for the zoo was included in the Legacy Funding Finance bill, while an additional \$4 million in appropriations were allocated in state bonds. In addition, I am so pleased to say my bill renaming the bridge over Hwy 52 in Coates in honor of Corporal Benjamin S. Kopp was signed by Governor Dayton.

Meeting and interacting with constituents has made my experience in the legislature one of the most rewarding in my life. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Rosemount, Apple Valley, and Coates in the years to come.

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HEALTH CARE



Emergency Premium Aid & Access: The legislature acted quickly to provide a 25% health insurance premium rebate and ensure continued access to doctors for patients receiving life-saving treatment.



Lowering Costs, Increasing Choices: A suite of reforms passed by the legislature provides more affordable options for small businesses and their employees, protects consumers from unfair billing practices, and allows organizations with member owners -- such as farm cooperatives -- to provide health insurance to their members. Furthermore, a new reinsurance law brings Minnesota closer to its pre-Obamacare system, where the relatively small pool of individuals and families who buy insurance on their own are not left to bear the cost of high risk individuals.

TAX RELIEF

It's been nearly two decades since Minnesotans have received meaningful tax relief. The 2017 Tax Relief bill, championed by House Republicans, delivers \$650 million in tax relief to Minnesota families over the next two years, and \$790 million in 2020-2021.



Nearly 284,000 senior citizen tax returns (single and married filing jointly) will receive tax reductions; 72,000 of those will no longer pay state income tax on their social security benefits.



A family of four making \$50,000 a year will receive an additional \$1,200 toward their child care expenses.





65,000 students will receive an average of a \$414 reduction in their taxes through a new tax credit for student loan payments.


TRANSPORTATION




To increase safety and reduce traffic congestion, the legislature prioritized fixing roads and bridges Minnesotans use every day. This session, lawmakers successfully defeated the governor's gas tax hike, and instead invested a historic level of existing funds into our transportation infrastructure statewide.


 **Local Aid to Fix Roads:** A more than \$300 million influx of funding for roads over two years, with an additional \$16 million for small cities' road projects. Over the next four years, Dakota County will receive nearly \$5 million in increased funding. For our cities, Apple Valley will receive more than \$583,000 and Rosemount will receive more than \$319,000.


 **Bridges:** 97 bridges will be repaired or replaced statewide as a result of \$25 million in funds for a new local bridge account.

 **Corporal Benjamin S. Kopp Bridge:** I am so pleased that my bill renaming the bridge over Hwy 52 in Coates in honor of Corporal Benjamin S. Kopp, was signed by Governor Dayton. Corporal Kopp was killed in 2009 while serving our country in Afghanistan, and many are alive today because of his sacrifice and choice to be an organ donor. I am truly humbled to have been a small part of honoring Ben's memory.

 **Light Rail:** Republicans stopped state dollars from funding ongoing operating costs for Southwest Light Rail.

NEW LAWS WITH AN EVERYDAY IMPACT

 **Real ID:** A Real ID-compliance law enables Minnesotans to use a state-issued ID to board an airplane or enter a federal facility.

 **Sunday Sales:** The repeal of an outdated law allows Minnesotans to purchase beer, wine and spirits on Sunday effective July 1st.

EDUCATION



The *Pioneer Press* hailed the legislature's efforts as "one of the biggest reforms to state education policy in recent history."

The K-12 Education Budget partners more than \$1.3 billion of increased funding, including a provision I co-authored to include a 2% yearly increase to the per-pupil formula that was requested by our school districts, with proven reforms including:

- Ending the "Last In, First Out" default layoff policy so that school districts can decide their own layoff policy with the goal of keeping the best teachers in the classroom.
- Investing in proven early education programming like pre-K scholarships and school readiness.
- Overhauling the broken teacher licensure system to help hire more teachers to address the shortage.

Funding Our Local Schools: District 196 will see more than \$11.5 million in new per-pupil funding which means more dollars in the classroom for our students and teachers.



MINNESOTA ZOO

The Minnesota Zoo, a state treasure right in our own backyard, was a priority for me in the 2017. I am grateful that \$3.5 million for the Zoo was included in the Legacy bill, while an additional \$4 million in appropriations were allocated in state bonds to improve and maintain the Zoo's infrastructure.