

State Representative

ROB HUTTON

Proudly representing the 13th Assembly District, which includes Elm Grove and communities in Brookfield, Milwaukee, Wauwatosa, Waukesha and West Allis.



2016 LEGISLATIVE REPORT



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Gov Walker signs Representative Hutton's bill into law.

“Prevailing Wage is a significant burden to local municipalities and school districts. Instead of having additional resources to invest in education and community services, they are forced to allocate more of their budgets to inflated capital projects.”

-- Rep. Rob Hutton



Representative Hutton calls a press conference to discuss Prevailing Wage Reform.

PREVAILING WAGE REFORM: A WIN FOR WISCONSIN TAXPAYERS

Wisconsin's prevailing wage law is a mandate that large public construction projects must include higher, inflated wages to workers, paid for by governmental bodies, and ultimately taxpayers. These costs are so high that a recent report by the Wisconsin Taxpayers Alliance found that the state's prevailing wage laws cost state taxpayers an extra \$200 to \$300 million in 2014 alone.

I, along with a number of my legislative colleagues, pushed for a complete repeal of the state's prevailing wage laws. While not a statewide repeal, a strong prevailing wage reform package was added to the state budget and signed into law.

This reform will lead to substantial savings for Wisconsin taxpayers and will give important financial flexibility for our schools, towns, cities, villages, and counties. This will also open the door for more Wisconsin small businesses to compete for projects, and ultimately will save taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars annually.

STATE GOVERNMENT ACCOUNTABILITY

In the past twenty-four years, Wisconsin's state budget has nearly tripled, from \$26 billion in 1991 to \$73 billion in 2015. In order to help reign in spending and evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of each dollar spent, I introduced Assembly Bill 534, legislation which requires state agencies to include in their biennial budget requests plans to reduce their spending by 5% for all state operations. Both houses of the Legislature passed Assembly Bill 534, and the bill was signed into law on March 1st. This new law should help to curtail government spending, invest taxpayer dollars wisely, and eliminate waste in state government.



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RIGHT TO WORK

This session, we passed much anticipated Right to Work legislation. I voted in favor of this legislation because I am in support both of worker freedom and economic development. The Right to Work law simply gives workers the freedom to choose whether or not to belong to a union.

The Governor signed Senate Bill 44, making Wisconsin the 25th Right to Work state, joining neighboring Iowa, Indiana, and Michigan. It is great to see this pro-worker and pro-business legislation become law.

HELPING THE VICTIMS OF CRIME

As Chair of the Committee on Corrections, I have had discussions on how to make our communities safe, protect the victim, and rehabilitate offenders. This session, I introduced two bills that help victims.

One bill reforms the restitution process to prioritize victims and hold offenders accountable for the harm they cause. The second bill allows the victim of a crime or the relative of a homicide victim to receive compensation for certain losses suffered as a result of the crime.

In addition, I have requested a Legislative Council Study Committee on our juvenile justice system in light of the significant rise of violent deaths in Milwaukee and also recent concerns in our juvenile justice system. It is important that we provide solutions that provide meaningful consequences and accountability.

HELPING THOSE WITH ALZHEIMER'S AND DEMENTIA

Alzheimer's and dementia are diseases that impact a growing percentage of our population. They can be hard on those suffering, and equally as challenging for loved ones and caregivers. This session, we passed bills to help Wisconsinites and families coping with Alzheimer's and dementia.

One of these bills creates crisis units for individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia who are in a crisis situation. Another bill awards dementia training grants for mobile crisis teams to respond when an individual's condition leads to dangerous behavior. A final bill provides a \$1 million increase for respite care so caregivers can have much needed time off.

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COLLEGE AFFORDABILITY

College tuition is on the rise, and more and more college students are finding themselves deeper and deeper in debt. The rising cost of college tuition and the difficulty of finding employment after graduation are heavy burdens for our college graduates.

To help, we in the Legislature included in the current state budget a two year tuition freeze for all resident undergraduate students enrolled in UW institutions. This is the second two year freeze enacted by the Legislature, as our last state budget also froze tuition for all resident undergraduate students enrolled in UW institutions for the two years.



Representative Hutton presents local hero Olivia Quigley with the Hometown Hero Award.



Lieutenant Governor Kleefisch and Representative Hutton have partnered together to help reduce recidivism.