



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
ROBERT BROOKS
60TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT



June 16, 2015

A Note from Rep. Brooks

Since last our last e-update, my staff and I have been working tirelessly to review and amend Governor Scott Walker's 2015-2017 biennial budget and the myriad recommendations made by the Joint Finance Committee. We are expecting that final deliberations on the budget will take place in the next few weeks. Thank you to everyone who has contacted my office with specific concerns related to the biennial budget. I very much appreciate your feedback and recommendations on issues of paramount importance to our state. There are three consequential issues that I intend to address in this section: Prevailing Wage, transportation and the building of a new Milwaukee Bucks arena.

I have been leading the charge for full repeal of the state's outmoded and antiquated prevailing wage laws. In addition to cosponsoring the legislation to fully repeal prevailing wage, I have met regularly with Assembly leadership to allow for a vote to be taken on prevailing wage. I have also been tirelessly lobbying my Assembly colleagues, urging them to support a full repeal of prevailing wage.

One of the most intriguing issues in the current budget cycle is the Milwaukee Bucks arena deal. My staff and I are working to verify the state's liability. A development that occurred on June 9, 2015, has led us to believe that the state's liability is much lower than the \$120 million originally projected. A memorandum, for which I am currently reviewing, analyzes the specifics of the state's liability. I am awaiting accurate information on the state's liability and a written copy of the final agreement before making a decision as to whether or not to support the Bucks arena deal.

At this writing, I am working with my conservative colleagues on alternatives to reduce Governor Walker's proposed \$1.3 billion bonding for transportation. The process, to date, has been fluid, as the Joint Finance Committee is still ascertaining the best strategy for dealing with the state's transportation shortfall.

It is apparent that a number of projects will need to be delayed and local road aids reduced in an effort to lower proposed bonding levels without increasing the gasoline tax or other revenues that Governor Walker indicated he would veto.

Constituent input is extremely important to me. Currently, I am working on several legislative initiatives, spawned by constituent feedback, ranging from defining columbaria in state statutes, to rates for workers compensation. The aforementioned represent a small sampling of the issues my office will be working on in the fall. If there are any legislative initiatives you would like to see proposed, or are having regulatory or agency issues, please contact me. I very much appreciate your feedback and take it seriously when deliberating on the merits of legislation.

Have a great week.



Meeting with students from Dunwiddie Elementary School.

This week in Madison

This week, the Wisconsin State Assembly passed a number of important legislative initiatives, on a multitude of issues, ranging from the Second Amendment to regulation of wood stoves. In the weeks ahead, the legislature will be working tirelessly to finalize the 2015-2017 biennial budget.

I strongly supported, this past week, legislation that would allow off-duty and retired law enforcement officials to carry a concealed firearm on school grounds. Law enforcement officers, both current and retired, are required to take hundreds of hours of firearm training and every twelve months, take recertification courses in order to keep their firearms. As such, I

know of no individuals more qualified to be protecting our children than individuals who devoted their lives to enhancing public safety.

In addition to the aforementioned, I joined my colleagues in supporting legislation that would eliminate the forty-eight hour waiting period for handgun purchases. With today's technology, a background check can be completed in mere minutes. As such, I contend that it is nonsensical for law-abiding citizens to wait any longer to purchase a handgun than they would for a rifle or a shotgun. Furthermore, it makes very little sense that I could walk into a store with a concealed weapon, but have to wait forty-eight hours to retrieve the weapon I just purchased.

I was proud to support legislation authored by Representative Dave Craig (R-Vernon), protecting individuals and businesses that use wood burning stoves. The legislation prohibits the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), from making a rule or enforcing a federal regulation that provides for a more stringent standard of wood stove production than was in effect on December 31, 2014. This legislation is a response to New Source Performance Standards recently enacted by the Environmental Protection Agency that placed higher emissions standards on wood stoves and other devices which in turn, make them more expensive for consumers.

I had the opportunity to welcome several school groups from the Sixtieth Assembly District to the Wisconsin State Capitol in the past few weeks. These groups included students from Westlawn Elementary School; Thomas Jefferson Middle School; Port Catholic; Parkview Elementary School; Dunwiddie Elementary School and Lincoln Elementary School. I very much enjoyed meeting all of you and look forward to seeing you at the capitol again in the near-future.



It was an honor to welcome students from Thomas Jefferson Middle School to the State Capitol.



Welcoming students from Lincoln Elementary School to the State Capitol.



I was pleased to meet with students from Parkview Elementary School during their visit to the State Capitol.

This week in the 60th District

This week, I had the honor of hosting a benefit for the family of SSG Kerry Kemp who died in service to our country on March 10, 2015. Thanks to generous donations from individuals in the Sixtieth District and beyond, we were able to raise more than \$25,000 for the Kemp family. The Kemp Family is still accepting donations. If you are interested in donating to the Kemp family, feel free to visit the Kemp Benefit Facebook page.

It was a pleasure meeting with UW-Madison Men's basketball star and Port Washington native, Josh Gasser, at the Kemp Benefit. Josh donated a picture signed by the entire 2014-2015 University of Wisconsin Men's basketball team.

On Friday, June 19, 2015, I will be participating in the Virtual Dementia Tour being sponsored by Heritage Nursing and Rehabilitation Center and Dementia Friendly Ozaukee County work group. The tour provides community members and businesses with the opportunity to experience the effects of dementia, first-hand. Estimates are that more than two

thousand Ozaukee County residents are experiencing the effects of dementia and the vast majority of them live at home and are active in the community.



Josh Gasser and my son, Robert, at the Kerry Kemp benefit.



Welcoming another group of students from Parkview Elementary to the State Capitol.



Thank you to students and faculty from Port Catholic for visiting the Wisconsin State Capitol.

Have a great week,

As always, if you have any comments or thoughts regarding the subject of this E-update, please feel free to contact me.

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