



REP. KARL VAN ROY • 90<sup>TH</sup> ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

# VAN ROY'S VIEWS

## LEGISLATIVE E-UPDATE

**Friday, November 9, 2007**

### **Veterans Day**

Veterans Day is officially held on November 11 but observed as a federal holiday this year on November 12. The day is set aside for Americans to pay tribute to veterans.

Our veterans show tremendous courage in being a small group to answer a patriotic call of duty to put their life on the line and serve their fellow Americans in the United States Military. Veterans deserve our recognition, respect, and gratitude for their honorable service and untold sacrifices to protect and defend our freedom.

Please take time to recognize and thank a veteran. If you don't know a veteran, numerous ceremonies are taking place throughout Brown County this weekend and next Monday. Find an event near you by clicking [here](#).

To learn more about the history of Veterans Day go to:  
<http://www1.va.gov/opa/vetsday/vetdayhistory.asp>

### **Mortgage Privacy Protection Act Passes Assembly**

I think most people share the belief that when homebuyers apply for a mortgage or a re-finance, the personal financial information they provide should be protected. This week, the Assembly unanimously passed AB 502 to regulate the dissemination of this sensitive personal information and subsequent sales solicitations through the use of the "trigger lead."

The "trigger lead" starts when a consumer submits a mortgage application with a lender. The lender submits the application to the credit-reporting agencies to verify the consumer's credit history. The credit-reporting agencies notify other lenders that a consumer is seeking a loan, and the individual's personal information is sold including the address, telephone number, age, income, mortgage payment, and home value. The consumer then receives unsolicited and sometimes harassing loan offers.

AB 502 is a great consumer protection bill that will protect the privacy of your personal

financial information and prevent it from being shared with businesses without your consent. The bill now moves to the Senate for consideration.

## **Coercive Abortion Protection Act Passes Assembly**

Regardless of where one stands on the issue of abortion itself, everyone should be able to agree that no woman should be forced to undergo an abortion against her will. It is not uncommon for women to be threatened and intimidated by a parent, boyfriend, and others into having an abortion.

Current law prohibits doctors from performing an abortion on a woman unless she has voluntarily consented. However, doctors are not specifically required to talk to the woman to determine whether the woman's consent is, in fact, voluntary.

Assembly Bill 427 requires the doctor who is performing the abortion to speak with the woman privately to determine whether or not her consent is voluntary. If the doctor has reason to suspect the woman is in danger of being physically harmed by someone trying to coerce her into having an abortion against her will, the physician must inform her about resources for victims of domestic violence and give her private access to a telephone if she wishes to call anyone for assistance. The bill also requires the Department of Health and Family Services to include information regarding domestic abuse services in the printed material women are already required to receive for informed consent.

Women who want to keep their babies but fear for their physical safety need to know that help is available. AB 427 is a small step toward accomplishing that. AB 427 passed the Assembly Tuesday on a bi-partisan vote and now moves to the Senate for consideration.

## **HIRSP Improvements for Health Care Pass Assembly**

There are many individuals who lose their health insurance coverage or are unable to find health insurance due to pre-existing medical conditions. Since 1979, Wisconsin has provided assistance to these individuals in the form of the Health Insurance Risk-Sharing Plan (HIRSP). 17,000 residents are currently enrolled in the program.

Last year, my legislative colleagues and I voted to create a new HIRSP authority with a governing board to administer the program outside of the state's Department of Health and Family Services. The new HIRSP Board identified a number of ways to improve efficiency and equity, to expand the number of health care providers available to those enrolled in the program, and to lower the cost of prescription drugs.

Senate Bill 226 was introduced to implement the technical changes requested by HIRSP that will remove red tape, improve efficiency and flexibility for thousands of people who rely on this vital program for their health care needs. I'm pleased to report that the bill passed the Assembly on Tuesday with a unanimous vote. Since the bill previously passed in the Senate, SB 226 now goes before the governor for his final approval.

## The Kids from MacArthur Elementary



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