

COMMUNITY ALERT

No Child Should Go Hungry!

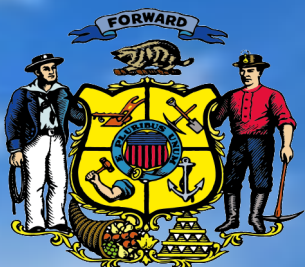
Due to a collaboration between The Lovell Johnson Quality of Life Center, the Hunger Task Force, and the Department of Public Instruction there will be free breakfast, lunch, and dinner available to Milwaukee's youth (18 and under) this summer.

Please visit impactinc.org for more info

Dear Friend,

Thank you for reading the legislative update. I hope you find the information provided here useful.

As Always, I'm Here to Serve!



DEMS RENEW CALL FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Spending taxpayer money to uphold the discriminatory ban? I don't think so. Governor Scott Walker and Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen filed an appeal against same-sex marriage in Wisconsin after a district judge overturned the ban last month. On Wednesday, my fellow Democratic Senators and I sent a letter to the Governor and Attorney General, urging them to abandon their efforts to waste taxpayer dollars to support policies that foster discrimination and limit the basic freedoms of Wisconsinites. It is my sincere hope that we can focus government spending on initiatives to repair our economy and improve the education our children receive, rather than to allowing the government to dictate who we can or cannot love. Our constitution guarantees equal protection under the law, and judges across the nation (including here in Wisconsin), have ruled these bans against marriage equality unconstitutional.



2014 URBAN AG ACADEMY



I am so thankful to have the opportunity to travel to Iowa this weekend for the 2014 Urban-Ag Academy Conference. The conference focuses on new agricultural technology and its applications in the future, improving existing agricultural infrastructure and developments, and the political process behind this initiative. Agricultural research is critical in improving our nation's dietary issues. In 2012, 49 million Americans lived in food-insecure households, where finding food every day is a real struggle. By researching how we can make agriculture more efficient and environmentally friendly, we can create American jobs in forward-looking fields, reduce the number of hungry citizens and set a course toward a healthier society by reducing our dependence on fast food and encouraging fresh produce and locally-grown ingredients. A stable agricultural society is the backbone of any strong nation, and I hope to do my part in making sure that the backbone lasts for a generations to come.



Come Join Us!

District Listening Session

Tuesday, July 29th
5:30 PM – 7 PM

District Office
2602 West Silver Spring Drive

Senator Taylor's Office

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TROUBLING FOSTER CARE PATTERNS

One of the Department of Children and Families' mandates is to protect the well-being of foster children in Wisconsin. Unfortunately, due to bureaucratic inconsistencies and misguided policy, both children and the public are at risk. Recently, a 1-year-old foster child was brought to a hospital suffering severe bruises, broken bones and internal bleeding. The foster mother was arrested and charged, but not before journalists discovered five previous accusations of negligence. Although the department is required by law to provide a case summary within 90 days, they delayed the release, citing "evolving policy" and maintaining secrecy for the trial. This kind of behavior on the part of the foster parents and the department is unacceptable. We need reforms to ensure potential foster homes are truly ready for the responsibility that is raising a child.



BOTCHED RAID INJURES TODDLER



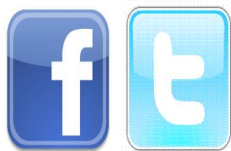
On May 28, a Georgia SWAT team threw a flashbang grenade into Bounkham "Bou Bou" Phonesavanh's crib, leaving the 20-month old with holes in his chest and face. The Phonesavanh family, originally from Janesville, were staying with relatives outside of Atlanta when the violence occurred. The police raided the home looking for drugs and a suspected drug dealer- neither of which were there. Alecia Phonesavanh, Bou Bou's mother, recalls "After breaking down the door, throwing my husband to the ground, and screaming at my children, the officers — armed with M16s — filed through the house like they were playing war." The family intends to sue for use of excessive force, violations of civil rights, and negligence by officers. Bou Bou's story is a tragic reminder of the cost of current tactics, and the damage caused by unnecessary practices without proper transparency or oversight.

Wise Words of the Week!

Contact Us! We Enjoy Hearing From You!

We owe it to ourselves and to the next generation to conserve the environment so that we can bequeath our children a sustainable world that benefits all.

- Wangari Maathai



We will never have true civilization until we have learned to recognize the rights of others

- Will Rogers