

# LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

STATE SENATOR LENA C. TAYLOR



## COMMUNITY ALERT

### Mobile Food Pantry

In partnership with PKSD Law firm and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority Inc., I will be giving away food baskets to families in need.

Date: Dec. 22nd  
Time: 9 am- 9pm

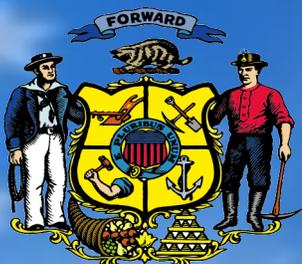
Locations  
Universal Schools  
3872 N 8th Street

If you have questions contact  
414-305-3889

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!



## CHOPPING BLOCK: Wisconsin Government Accountability

Wisconsin Assembly Speaker, Robin Vos (R-Rochester), has pronounced his contempt for non-partisan Wisconsin Government Accountability Board. The GAB is the only non-partisan state agency in the nation that oversees state elections, campaign finance, lobbying and ethics. This beacon of non-partisan oversight has come under attack by Rep. Vos and by State Senate Majority leader Scott Fitzgerald. On Monday, Vos said he no longer favored only keeping the six non-partisan retired judges that constitute the GAB, but is in favor of Sen. Fitzgerald's proposal to make the GAB a partisan entity with its members serving political appointments. Vos is using the pretext of a recent Legislative Audit Bureau of the G.A.B. which uncovered some issues that need to be addressed and corrected, but which in no way suggested that the G.A.B. needs to be destroyed and brought under legislative control as Vos and Fitzgerald and others seek to do.

## A TIME FOR JUSTICE REINVESTMENT

Throughout my career I have been a staunch advocate for corrections reform, in fact it is was the reason I decided to run for political office. For the past decade, I have advocated for common sense reforms and a focus on best practices. Especially since 2009 when our Justice Reinvestment Committee made recommendations on which data driven best practices would help our state to create a pipeline for reentry ,reducing recidivism and a platform for building our workforce. Unfortunately the legislature did not have the will to institute the suggested reforms, until now. As the recently appointed co-chair on the taskforce on minority unemployment, I have advocated that we focus on reentry simultaneously. This week has been a very special week because the state of Wisconsin and Milwaukee County were selected for pilot program by the Justice Center. The County will be doing work around addressing our triggers to incarceration, mental health and addiction. The state is participating in a pilot program that focuses on reentry and employment. The service will target criminal-genic and data driven strategies to address recidivism. There is an emphasis on wrap around services to ensure individuals have the proper supports in housing, employment, mental health services to ensure they have every opportunity to successful integrate in society.





**Is Orange the New Black**

“Strategies for parenting and Educating Resilient Black Boys in the 21st Century”

**Presenter**

Dr. Jawanza Kunjufu

FRESH START FAMILY SERVICES

**DATE: December 16, 2014**

**Time: 6-8pm**

Cost: \$10

Address 1720 West Florist Ave  
Rm #200  
Glendale, WI 53209  
Distracted Driving  
Awareness Event

**Senator Taylor's**  
**Office**

(414) 342-7176

sen.taylor@legis.wi.gov

www.senatortaylor.com

Rm 19 South, State Capitol

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 7882

Madison, WI 53707-7882

***RATE INCREASE: Wisconsin Department of Children and Families***

This week I sign on to a letter urging the secretary of Department of Children and Families to use unspent funds to raise child care rates. As state legislator who is committed to quality early education and supporting our state’s child care industry, I encouraged the secretary to use funding that was allocated for the Wisconsin Shares program in the current biennium, but is not being spent, to increase child care reimbursement rates for child care providers in the Shares program. According to a unanimous, bipartisan motion passed by the Joint Finance Committee earlier this year, the state had \$22.7 million in unspent child care funds this biennium. After spending \$5.3 million for a recent 2% increase, that leaves at least \$17.4 million available to be spent this biennium. Both state law and federal guidelines indicate that child care reimbursement rates should be set so they cover at least 75% of available slots. Unfortunately, the state’s current reimbursement rates don’t even come close. Wisconsin Shares’ rates were frozen for seven years and just recently received minimal increases, most centers are struggling to survive. As result, I along with my Democratic colleagues have sent a letter to the Department to address this pressing issue.

***HAPPY HOLIDAYS***

The holiday season is in full swing, as you enjoy family events and special celebrations, keep in mind that the best gifts are the ones bestowed on those who are in need. So often we think of holidays as a time to give special gifts to those who are nearest to our hearts. It’s easy to give gifts to those we love, respect, and adore. However, it is during the holidays that those who are unfortunate suffer the most. Holidays should serve as a reminder that there is an opportunity to make a contribution in your community every day of the calendar year. You and your family can make a significant difference by giving the gift of time, patience, kindness and compassion to those who are in dire need of assistance. This is was the holidays are truly about; the spirit of giving and love don’t cost us a penny and often are the gifts that create memories that will last a lifetime for the giver and the receiver. In the 4<sup>th</sup> Senate District, there are countless ways that you can impact our community.



***Wise Words of the Week!***

**Contact Us!**

**We Enjoy  
Hearing  
From You!**

“This is a court of law young man, not a court of justice.”

-Oliver Wendell Holmes, Jr  
Supreme Court Justice

