



E-mail Update

September 25, 2015

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Dear Friends,

As fall arrives, temperatures are starting to drop, but hiring in Wisconsin continues to go up.

For the fourth straight year, manufacturing employment increased in our state. Wisconsin added 6,516 industrial jobs from July 2014 to July 2015. That's great news for our area. [According to Manufacturers' News Inc.](#), Southeast Wisconsin accounts for over half of the state's industrial employment.

Wisconsin also outpaced 40 other states from August 2014 to August 2015 in private sector job creation. The U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics reports we added 47,600 jobs during that time.

We are not resting on our laurels. I serve on the Senate Committee on Economic Development and Commerce, which is chaired by Senator Rick Gudex of Fond du Lac. This week, we made our first stop on a statewide listening tour in Oak Creek. You can read more about our visit and a lot more below.

As always, if you have any ideas on how to improve our great state, please do not hesitate to contact me at Sen.Darling@legis.wi.gov or at 608-266-5830.

Sincerely,

Senator Darling's
Website

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Alberta Darling

Listening Session in Oak Creek



I had a great conversation with a constituent of the 8th Senate District and CNC Instructor, Chris Haase, before this week's Senate Committee on Economic Development and Commerce listening session in Oak Creek.

The committee hearing was a great opportunity for us to listen to job creators and economic development groups

about what the state is doing right and what must be improved. I am encouraged by the optimism I heard at the meeting.

Our stop in Oak Creek was the first of five stops for the committee throughout Wisconsin. On October 5th, we will meet at Nicolet Area Technical College in Rhineland.

You can find out more information about the tour and submit your ideas by visiting:

<http://legis.wisconsin.gov/senate/republicans/News/Tour>

HOPE Agenda Announced



More people die from drug overdoses in Wisconsin than in traffic accidents. In fact, from 1999 to 2013, the number of Wisconsin residents who died from drug poisoning more than doubled, causing more deaths in 2013 than from breast cancer, colon cancer, or influenza. This lethal epidemic is affecting our entire state, hitting rural areas just as hard as cities. Combatting this public health crisis is a top priority for me this fall.

This week, I joined Representative Jim Ott, Lieutenant Governor Rebecca Kleefisch and the Ozaukee Heroin Task Force to present at the Solutions & Hope Presentation & Resource Fair at the Ozaukee County

Fairgrounds. The event was an eye opening experience of how heroin and prescription drug addiction is happening everywhere and can impact anyone.

Last session, I was proud to work with State Representative John Nygren of Marinette on his Heroin, Opiate Prevention and Education (HOPE) agenda. Representative Nygren personally watched someone struggle with heroin in a heart wrenching situation. Rather than hiding his experience, Representative Nygren channeled his energy into the HOPE Agenda.

The first round of the HOPE agenda put Wisconsin ahead of the curve in dealing with this epidemic. Representative Nygren authored seven bills focusing to combat heroin and prescription drug abuse. All seven bills were unanimously approved by both houses and signed by Governor Walker in April of 2014. But the fight isn't over.

The goal of this year's HOPE agenda is to get people the help they need before they spiral into addiction. The majority of overdose deaths are caused by prescription drugs, and the four new bills this session will go a long way in slowing the problems prescription drugs are causing in our state. The bills will:

Require information be submitted to the prescription drug monitoring program within 24 hours. Previously, the requirement was seven days, giving addicts a longer window to "doctor shop" - going from doctor to doctor trying to get prescriptions for drugs. Patient's records will also be reviewed before they are prescribed a monitored prescription drug.

Make law enforcement report to the prescribing physician and the prescription drug monitoring program if a prescription drug is found at a crime scene of a drug overdose or controlled substance violation.

Give the Department of Health Services oversight over the operation of pain management clinics across the state. The department's oversight would not be regulatory, but would be a way of providing safeguards so "pill mills" don't pop up in our state.

Make methadone clinics gather information to help improve how care is delivered and improve treatment options for addicts.

I will be the lead author of the last two bills in the State Senate. It's important to note the HOPE Agenda does not prevent anyone from getting the medicine they need. These bills will help stop addicts and dealers from trying to game the system and make sure the resources are there for the people who truly need them.

In addition to the HOPE agenda, Wisconsin's Department of Justice is also launching a campaign against prescription drug abuse called a "Dose of Reality." You can find more information on their efforts by visiting <http://doseofrealitywi.gov/>.

The heroin epidemic in our state is a complicated problem. I will keep working to ensure that state resources are used effectively to combat this epidemic. The HOPE agenda helps make Wisconsin's future brighter by helping people avoid the devastation that heroin and prescription drugs bring into all of our lives.

Behind the Scenes With Jordy Nelson



Ever wonder what goes into Wisconsin's fantastic tourism commercial? Here's a backstage pass to the latest ad featuring Packers star Jordy Nelson.

Around the 8th...



Congratulations to Gene McMullen who grew the largest pumpkin in North America! The great pumpkin weighed in at more than 2,000 pounds at the Cedarburg Wine and Harvest Festival last weekend.

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