

JANUARY 2020 REP'S REPORT

This is the time where the legislative session starts to wrap up. That means more public hearings, executive committee votes and days voting on the Assembly Bills. Unfortunately, this session the Republican majority has failed to bring many important bills forward. Just a few examples are accepting the federal health care dollars, which could go a long way to address rising health care costs, and closing the "Dark Store" loophole, which is shifting the tax burden from big box retailers to home owners. Democrats also have bills to legalize marijuana and clean water protections that will not be voted on. We also have bills to make child care affordable, expanding family leave, and to cap the cost of insulin. We know we need to raise the minimum wage and have a bill to do that.

I am pleased to have cosponsored many important bills which have passed and are now signed into law, and I remain hopeful more will be enacted in the remaining few months. However, we should be doing so much more to address the needs of the people of Wisconsin.

I was honored to attend a Holiday Reception at the Governor's Executive Residence and remain grateful for his leadership in his first year of service.

As always there have been a lot of events in the district. I did an hour long interview on legalization of medical marijuana with Lenny Palmer on his morning show on WLIP, AM1050. I always enjoy talking with Lenny on issues of the day and thank him for the opportunity.

I took part in the Tourism Partner Appreciation Night at the Kenosha Museum. Tourism plays a huge role in our economy, both locally and of course for the entire state. Coincidentally, I was also named to serve on the Tourism Committee to fill an empty seat there. Also at the museum, a celebration was held for outgoing General Manager of the Kenosha Water Utility Ed St. Peter and Assistant General Manager Dave Lewis for their retirements. I wish them well and thank them for their decades of service in providing us with clean safe and affordable drinking water.

Representative Tip McGuire and I met with a local building contractor to talk about the issues important to their industry and the impact of a bill to help

contractors which is advancing in the Ways & Means Committee, which we both serve on.

We also attended a program at the First United Methodist Church sponsored by Selah Freedom on the media and internet and how it relates to human trafficking. We are very fortunate Selah Freedom has chosen Kenosha to place a safe house for survivors of human trafficking and sexual exploitation here. I'm also pleased to report the Assembly voted on a resolution I was pleased to co-sponsor proclaiming January 2020 Human Trafficking Awareness and Prevention Month.

I hope all of you had a great holiday season and remind you if you have a state-related problem, give us a call and we'll do what we can to resolve it. Likewise, if you have a suggestion or complaint don't hesitate to contact us. We can be reached by phone at (608) 266-0455 or by email at rep.ohnstad@legis.wisconsin.gov.