

COMMUNITY ALERT

Help to protect, defend and gain civil rights for all!

Register today for the Rainbow PUSH Coalition 43rd Annual International Convention!

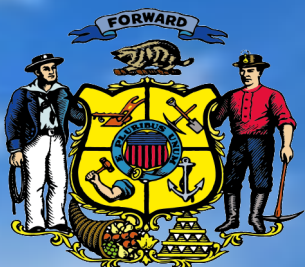
June 28—July 2
Chicago, IL

Visit: rainbowpush.org

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!



VICTORY FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY!

On Friday, U.S. District Judge Barbara Crabb declared Wisconsin's ban on same-sex marriage unconstitutional. In 2006, voters amended the Wisconsin Constitution to outlaw gay marriage. The American Civil Liberties Union filed a lawsuit in February on behalf of eight couples, challenging the ban. The lawsuit argued that the ban violates one's



Photo credit: host.madison.com

constitutional right to equal protection and due process. Last Friday, Crabb issued a ruling stating same-sex couples "are entitled to the same treatment as any heterosexual couple." Milwaukee and Dane county officials began issuing marriage licenses immediately. Still, there was confusion throughout the state as to whether or not the ruling was meant to take effect immediately. Wisconsin Attorney General J.B. Van Hollen says he will seek an emergency federal court order to stop the marriages and take the ruling to the U.S. Court of Appeals, asking for an emergency stay to halt the marriages. In the past week, nearly 500 marriage licenses have been issued statewide, 183 of those in Milwaukee county alone. Congrats to all the happy couples!

SMALL BUSINESSES CONTINUES TO SUFFER



Photo credit: downtowneauclaire.org

Although the recession may be "over", there is still a long way to go before our economy is healthy again. A recent poll found that small businesses are still weary to start investing long-term. The current administration, under Governor Walker, has done precious little to stave off the loss of small-businesses in our community. Wisconsin still lags behind most states when it comes to creating private-sector jobs. Only 21% of Wisconsin small business owners said they would add jobs this year. These owners are the beating heart of the American business ecosystem. I will work to ensure that these men and women can believe in our economy and start growing again. We need to shore up our economy and make sure tax cuts and benefits are extended to everyone, not just the upper class. Only when small businesses are stable can we have a healthy America.



Save the Date!

15th Annual "Men Who Cook" & the 5th Annual "Dads Who Cook!"

Saturday, September 13, 2014
11:00am - 5:00pm
The Parklawn YMCA
4340 N. 46th Street

For more information, and to register: <http://www.menwhocookwi.com/>

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LOOKING BACK TO MOVE FORWARD

This next Thursday marks the 149th year since the final enslaved men were set free following the end of the Civil War and the issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation, which occurred two and half years earlier. It is because of this we recognize June 19th as Juneteenth Day, in celebration of all former enslaved men becoming officially free. It is important to continue the recognition of such a historical event as it reminds us how far we have come and how far we still need to go. Although our freedom was given back to us in 1865, we have been fighting for some time now for the equality we deserve. So, it is for that reason that I urge you on this upcoming Thursday to not only reflect on our past, but also what we can do to better our future.



Photo credit: themilwaukeedrum.com

CHECKING UP ON WISCONSIN HEALTH CARE



Photo credit: ashlandmmc.com

Last Tuesday, the Senate Health Committee and the Wisconsin Hospital Association (WHA) held a briefing to explain the state of health care in Wisconsin. WHA and the health committee clarified some of the health care goals in Wisconsin such as transparency and patient-centered care. They also explained Checkpoint, an online source where hospitals provide information voluntarily, such as patient satisfaction data that demonstrates the quality of care at different state facilities. The Checkpoint assessment of the two hospitals in the 4th district, Columbia St. Mary's Hospital and Orthopedic Hospital of Wisconsin, show that both hospitals are better than the national average on Patient Experience, exemplifying the commitment to patient centered care. High quality care is a Wisconsin advantage for businesses, patients, and employees and Wisconsin is a leader among the country in high quality care! Our next step is to ensure that all citizens have access to the exceptional service provided by our hospitals.

Wise Words of the Week!

**Contact Us!
We Enjoy
Hearing
From You!**



"It takes no compromise to give people their rights... it takes no money to respect the individual. It takes no political deal to give people freedom. It takes no survey to remove repression."

- Harvey Milk