



## State Representative District 60B

# Frank Hornstein

**JUNE 7, 2005 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE**

*Dear Neighbors,*

*We are now entering the third week of a special legislative session. While negotiations continue, there are still significant divides to overcome—particularly in the areas of healthcare, transportation, and education but most specifically on the issue of revenue. The House Republicans have followed the Governor's lead and relied heavily on property tax increases, fees, and budget shifts to increase revenue.*

*The Democrats have preferred to see a more comprehensive, honest, and progressive approach to raising revenue including an income tax increase on those who earn more than \$250,000 a year and have benefited from various tax cuts since 1998. In fact, even with a proposed income tax increase, these fortunate Minneostans would keep 92% of the combined state and federal tax cuts they have received since 2001.*

*In a sign that each side is beginning to compromise, the Governor has signaled his support for a cigarette tax increase to help bring in revenues to increase investments in education and healthcare. I am pleased Governor is publicly recognizing the need for an increase in revenue to fund the core functions of Government. The cigarette tax increase would mean more than much needed revenue, it would also be an important public policy initiative that would encourage smokers to stop and discourage young people from starting in the first place.*

*However, the Governor has placed unrelated, politically charged "riders" to the cigarette proposal requiring the legislature to pass policies such as public money for private schools or his embattled gambling plan in order for him to sign a cigarette tax.*

*It is truly an honor to represent our district in the House. Please feel to contact me with questions or comments about these or any other issue of state government.*

*Sincerely,*

## 2005 BIPARTISAN SUCCESSES

### Bonding

I voted for this key bill to create jobs and invest in our Minnesota economy. This bill invested \$945 million in bonding projects across the state. Projects include: Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center to be located at the new Minneapolis Public Library, Sears site redevelopment, the completion of the Cedar Lake Trail, the Shubert Theater, Collin Powell Youth Center, and the study and design for the Central Corridor transit line between Minneapolis and Saint Paul on University Avenue.

### Minimum Wage

I supported the passage of a dollar increase in the minimum wage. The minimum wage increase that passed was an example of a compromise between the House the Senate and the Governor and will improve the lives of many low-wage workers.

## CONTACT REPRESENTATIVE FRANK HORNSTEIN

227 State Office Building ♦ 100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. ♦ St. Paul, MN 55155  
(651) 296-9281 ♦ [rep.frank.hornstein@house.mn](mailto:rep.frank.hornstein@house.mn) ♦ [www.house.mn/60B](http://www.house.mn/60B)

## REMAINING WORK

- ◆ **Budget Fix** – With a \$1.16 billion budget deficit, the state needs to either make significant cuts to healthcare and not fully fund our public schools, or lawmakers will need to find additional revenue to fill the hole.
- ◆ **Clean Water Legacy** – We need to identify the impaired waters in the state and take steps to clean them to ensure that future generations will be able to enjoy the same quality of life and recreation that they offer. I join many of my colleagues with a concern that the proposed funding source would overburden our homeowners and small business asking them to pick up much more than their fair share of the cost. Environmental groups, business leaders, lawmakers and others are working together to find a compromise.
- ◆ **Healthcare** -- The House Republicans support the Governor's budget recommendations for healthcare that would mean the loss of affordable health-care coverage for as many as 30,000 Minnesotans. The Democrats believe that this is simply unacceptable. Healthcare funding is one of the areas that will generate the most challenging negotiations this special session.
- ◆ **K-12 Education Funding** – Although there is great disagreement on how additional state support for schools should be generated, I am pleased that each proposal includes at least a \$740 + increase in education dollars so we will likely see an increase in funding for our schools. The Senate included in their language a measure that I co-authored to evaluate the educational impact of federal and state testing requirements. In order to fund the increase, the Governor and the House Republicans rely heavily on property tax increases and shifts that that could lead to inequities between the quality of education students receive across the state.
- ◆ **Transportation** – The House and Senate worked in a bipartisan manner to pass a transportation package to improve our rural roads and invest in transit and transportation system statewide. Unfortunately, the Governor vetoed the bill, which would have addressed the budget deficit facing Metro Transit and would have eliminated the need for route reductions and fare increases. It would have made historic investments in improving our road infrastructure to address our current and future transportation needs.