

07/15/05

Lyndon Carlson

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE



HOW TO REACH

State
Representative
**Lyndon
Carlson**

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Dear Neighbors,

The 2005 legislative session has drawn to a close, and I believe that we found balanced and reasonable solutions to the budget challenge that met our most pressing needs.

We made the most significant invest in our students and classrooms in two decades, increasing the funding by \$800 million.

We were able to safeguard access to affordable health insurance for 27,000 working Minnesotans.

However, as with any compromise, there were positives and negatives. I was disappointed to the cuts to child care assistance within the healthcare bill and the reliance on property taxes for a percentage of the education funding increase.

It is a pleasure to represent our district in the House of Representatives. Please contact me regarding any issue of state government.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lyndon Carlson". The signature is written in a cursive style.

K-12 EDUCATION

Rep. Lyndon voted to increase education funding for Minnesota schools by \$800 million over the next two years. This is the first state education funding increase since 2003, and the most significant investment in our students and classrooms in two decades. The 8% increase in the per pupil formula represents a \$300 million increase over the Governor's original proposal. Funding for early childhood education programs is also increased.

HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Rep. Lyndon Carlson fought to see that working Minnesotans that depend on MinnesotaCare for their affordable health insurance did not lose their care due to budget cuts. He also supported the effort to remove the punitive \$5,000 benefits cap. However, he voted for neither the cuts to childcare nor the cuts to our hospitals.

METHAMPHETAMINE

Rep. Carlson voted to take aggressive steps to combat the growing meth

WEEKLY SESSION UPDATE

epidemic in the state by placing restrictions on the sale of some cold and sinus medications that are used in the illegal production of meth, increasing penalties for making and distributing the drug, and supporting aid to counties for purposes of clean up of clandestine labs.

MINIMUM WAGE

Rep. Lyndon Carlson voted in favor of a dollar increase in the minimum wage. The bill takes an important step in

PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Carlson supported legislation that provided for tough penalties for dangerous sex offenders, funding for battered women's and crime victims' services, and provides funding to address methamphetamine related crime but includes some funding for treatment options as well.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT AID

Rep. Carlson voted in support of a bill that will increase payments to local governments by \$45 million. These payments help communities meet their needs and provide for relief to property taxpayers.

BONDING

The bipartisan passage of the bonding bill funded \$945 million of construction and capital improvement projects statewide. Some of the key investments include \$37.5 million for the Northstar Commuter Rail Line, \$12 million in permanent supportive housing loans and \$22 million for the new Minnesota Planetarium and Space Discovery Center. Rep. Carlson said that the passage of the bonding bill could create as many as 12,000 jobs in the state of Minnesota.

TRANSPORTATION

The Governor vetoed a comprehensive transportation/transit package at the end of the regular legislative session. Following that action, the legislature passed a bill that basically keeps MnDOT at its previous funding levels but does provide an additional \$40 million for metro transit needs. This will stop some of the cuts to routes and service reductions that were planned for Metro Transit.

