



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## REFLECTIONS ON THE 2016 SESSION

The last two years have flown by, and I am so thankful for the trust this community has placed in me. It remains an honor and joy to represent you and our community in the legislature.

Over the last two years, the GOP-led House and DFL-led Senate worked together on many large bills and issues, namely passing the state's budget in 2015 and passing a supplemental budget in 2016.

I personally worked on several pieces of legislation, including a handful of bills for Highway 10 and for three rail crossings at Highway 47, Sunfish Lake and Ramsey Blvd. I was also thrilled to chief author three pro-life bills, one of which actually became law in 2015!

### University of Minnesota and Aborted Fetal Tissue

Last October, Alpha News reported that the University of Minnesota (U of MN) provided inaccurate information to the legislature regarding their procurement of aborted fetal tissue for research. I was incredibly disappointed with the U of MN's response in the aftermath of this revelation, as they adamantly defended their use of aborted fetal tissue for medical research purposes.

To be clear, I am supportive of fetal tissue research if the tissue is procured in an ethical manner, through natural death. I believe the U of MN can find a way to ethically procure fetal tissue to research within the bounds of our laws and I look forward to continuing work on this issue.

### Bathroom Privacy

I co-authored a bill that seeks to protect the privacy of individuals by requiring that men and women use the bath locker room facilities of their biological sex, particularly in school settings. Please know I believe all students, those struggling with gender and those that may be affected by changes in bath locker room policies, need our love and compassion. This bill would have been an important first step in addressing the concerns of folks on all sides of this issue.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**Abigail Whelan**



### Protecting Life

I authored the Born Alive Infant Protection Act, which was signed into law last year. This bill provides civil remedies for physicians who fail to provide care to an infant who is born alive as a result of a failed abortion. It also adds a reporting requirement.

A sincere and heartfelt thank you to everyone who had a hand in the passage of this pro-life legislation. I am truly grateful and in awe of God's hand in this bill.



## Tax Relief

I voted for a bill that included nearly \$1 billion in tax relief over the next three years and \$500 million in ongoing, permanent tax breaks. Between the House and Senate, the bill received 179 of 201 votes. Unfortunately, Governor Dayton refused to sign the bill, making it the most bipartisan tax bill vetoed in the past thirty years.

The bill included a number of important provisions including:

- Relief for college graduates
- Property tax relief for small businesses
- Expanding the childcare tax credit for families

Bringing relief to the overtaxed citizens of Minnesota remains a top priority and I will continue to advocate for tax reform.



### STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## Abigail Whelan

Please contact me anytime regarding issues that effect our community.

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## Supplemental Budget

The legislature passed a modest supplemental budget this year. While I am not in favor of additional spending, I was pleased that the final amount of extra spending was much lower than the Governor and Senate's original numbers. Highlights from this bill include:

- A full exclusion of military retirement pay from state income tax
- \$10 million for angel investor tax credit to grow good-paying jobs in all regions of the state
- Additional funding for security upgrades at the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center
- Tax credits for parents of still-born children

## “Bonding” for Roads and Bridges

Unfortunately, the House, Senate, and governor were unable to agree to a long term transportation plan. To address this impasse the House and Senate worked together to make a large one-time investment in road and bridge projects across Minnesota through a bonding bill that included nearly \$300 million cash from the state's \$900 million surplus.

The final proposal contained a number of projects in and around our community, including adding a third lane on Highway 10 from Hanson Boulevard to Round Lake Boulevard and planning dollars for Thurston-Fairoak in Anoka on Highway 10. Another spending item in the bonding bill included funding for security improvements at the Anoka-Metro Regional Treatment Center.

The House passed the bill on a bipartisan 91-39 vote, however, the Senate added an amendment in the final hour of session that would expand taxing authority for light rail expansion. Because of this the bill stalled in the Senate and was not passed.

I will continue to advocate for common sense solutions to our transportation needs. We already have the existing resources to get the job done.