



# LEGISLATIVE REPORT



## Dear Neighbors,

This session will go down as one of the most productive in recent memory and it has been an honor and privilege to serve our community at the Capitol. We successfully delivered **the largest tax relief package for Minnesotans in nearly two decades and the largest investment in roads and bridge infrastructure in state history without a gas tax increase.**

I am personally proud that after years of work my bill to make Minnesota Real ID compliant became law. Minnesotans will be able to use their state-issued driver's license to board airplanes and enter federal facilities, including military bases. **The bottom line is Minnesotans will be able to board airplanes and visit relatives on military bases without needing additional documents.**

Meeting and interacting with constituents has made my experience in the Legislature one of the most rewarding in my life. I look forward to continuing to serve the people of Maple Grove and Osseo in the 2018 Session.



Rep. Smith and his daughter after the passage of Real ID



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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## REFLECTIONS OF THE 2017 SESSION



### HEALTH CARE

**Emergency Premium Aid & Access:** House Republicans acted quickly to provide a 25 percent health insurance premium rebate and ensure continued access to doctors for patients receiving life-saving treatment.

**Lowering Costs, Increasing Choices:** A suite of reforms passed by House Republicans provides more affordable options for small businesses and their employees, protects consumers from unfair billing practices, and allows organizations with member owners -- such as farm cooperatives -- to provide health insurance to their members. Furthermore, a new reinsurance law brings Minnesota closer to its pre-Obamacare system, where the relatively small pool of individuals and families who buy insurance on their own are not left to bear the cost of high risk individuals.

## TAX RELIEF

It's been nearly two decades since Minnesotans have received meaningful tax relief. The 2017 Tax Relief bill, championed by House Republicans, delivers \$650 million in tax relief to Minnesota families over the next two years, and \$790 million in 2020-2021.



Nearly 284,000 senior citizen tax returns (single and married filing jointly) will receive tax reductions; 72,000 of those will no longer pay state income tax on their social security benefits.



A family of four making \$50,000 a year will receive an additional \$1,200 toward their child care expenses.



65,000 students will receive an average of a \$414 reduction in their taxes through a new tax credit for student loan payments.



Provide Maple Grove with more flexibility in creating TIF zones in order to spur economic growth.

## TRANSPORTATION

To increase safety and reduce traffic congestion, House Republicans prioritized fixing roads and bridges Minnesotans use every day. This session, lawmakers successfully defeated the governor's gas tax hike, and instead invested a historic level of existing funds into our transportation infrastructure statewide.



**Local Aid to Fix Roads:** A more than \$300 million influx of funding for roads over two years, with an additional \$16 million for small cities' road projects. Over the next four years, Hennepin County will receive \$12.6 million in increased funding and Maple Grove will receive more than \$820,000 in new local street aid.



**Bridges:** 97 bridges will be repaired or replaced statewide as a result of \$25 million in funds for a new local bridge account.



**Light Rail:** Republicans stopped state dollars from funding ongoing operating costs for Southwest Light Rail.

## MY LEGISLATION



Real ID compliance law enables Minnesotans to board an airplane or enter a federal facility.



Aid home ownership for middle-class Minnesotans by removing barriers that were stifling construction of new condos and townhouses.



Prevent fraudulent lawsuits under the American with Disabilities Act by giving businesses a time period to correct deficiencies.



Help protect small family farms by exempting them from an annual reporting requirement for land held in trusts.

## EDUCATION

**The *Pioneer Press* hailed House Republican efforts as "one of the biggest reforms to state education policy in recent history."**

The K-12 Education Budget partners more than \$1.3 billion of increased funding, including my provision to include a 2% yearly increase to the per-pupil formula that was requested by our school districts, with proven reforms including:

- Ending the "Last In, First Out" default layoff policy for schools to keep the best teachers in the classroom.
- Investing in proven early education programming like pre-K scholarships and school readiness.
- Overhauling the broken teacher licensure system to help hire more teachers to address the shortage.
- The Higher Education bill establishes a workforce development scholarship to incentivize students to enter high demand occupations.



**Funding Our Local Schools:** The Osseo and Wayzata Independent School Districts will receive an increase of more than \$15.3 million in new per-pupil funding which means more dollars in the classroom for our students and teachers.