

Legislative Review

2015-16



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A Historic Session

For the first time in over 30 years, Minnesotans chose a DFL governor, a Senate DFL majority and a House Republican majority to work together and lead state government.

In this historic legislative session, House Republicans focused on bringing government spending more closely in line with family budgets.

Through investment and reform, House Republicans worked to:

- Grow better-paying jobs
- Give every child a world-class education
- Lower health care costs
- Improve aging adults' quality of life
- Refocus transportation dollars on roads and bridges



Despite having just one leg of a three-legged stool, **House Republicans limited spending to the 3rd lowest increase in over 50 years.**

Improving Minnesota Schools

The bipartisan K-12 Education bill in 2015, and additional education measures passed in 2016, included important provisions to help move us toward our goal of giving every child in the state—regardless of ZIP code—a world-class education. Education provisions included:

- \$525 million more than we were projected to spend (\$1.4 billion more than the 2014-2015 budget) for a total of about **\$17.2 billion in education spending**. This includes a 2% increase each year on the per pupil funding formula.
- **\$50 million of additional spending** in the 2016 session for proven K-12 programs.
- Historic **investments in early childhood learning** scholarships and school readiness programs.
- **Reducing paperwork for special education teachers by 25%**.
- **Simplifying out-of-state teacher licensure** reciprocity requirements.
- My measure providing more flexibility with existing funding to **help schools address teacher shortages** in hard to fill areas.
- My provision **expanding on the school "Innovation Zones" proposal** from 2012, extending this option to all districts.
- My legislation **establishing a grant program for the creation of teacher-powered schools**, empowering teachers by providing them with autonomy in decision making and responsibility for learning outcomes.

Prioritizing Minnesotans

Our supplemental budget proposal passed with bipartisan support this year and was signed into by Governor Dayton. This bill allocated \$158 million dollars to preschool early learning grants, mental health resources, broadband infrastructure, economic disparities, higher education, and resources to combat sex trafficking. Specific provisions include the following:

- **Making veterans retirement benefits completely tax-exempt.** Minnesota is now 1 of 13 states that does not tax any part of military pensions.
- Improving quality of life and care for our aging adults by providing **more housing options for seniors** and the families caring for them, and **increasing funding in the 2015 session for senior care facilities.**
- Keeping our communities safe through **sex trafficking prevention, increasing penalties for online predators** and **efforts to curb terrorist recruitment.**



My Bills

I authored the following provisions, which received substantial bipartisan support on the House floor and where signed into law by Governor Dayton.

- **Creating a \$2,000 tax credit for parents who have had a stillborn child** for the tax year in which the child was born, helping to offset the \$12,000 - \$15,000 of unexpected costs associated with having a stillbirth.
- **Coordinating and standardizing ST- segment elevation myocardial infarctions (STEMI) systems** to improve response time and care for heart attack victims.
- **Clarifying the definitions and parameters of the Host Community Economic Development grant program** for areas in the metro (including Burnsville) that have sites for disposing unprocessed, mixed solid waste. These grants are aimed at encouraging economic growth and job creation in these communities.
- **Allowing pharmacists to issue up to a 90-day supply of certain prescriptions** once an individual completes an initial 30-day supply, making it easier for people to plan ahead when going on vacation, and saving time for both patients and doctors.

Restoring Balance

House Republicans stood up for middle-class Minnesotans, serving as the check and balance to Dayton and the DFL.

- Defeated the largest gas tax increase in state history.
- Prevented an expensive, one-size-fits-all approach to early education.
- Stopped tax increases on doctor visits and insurance premiums.
- My provision removing the Governor's ability to increase pay for executive branch appointees, putting salary decisions back into the hands of the legislature.