Dear Oakdale & Maplewood Neighbors,

Thank you for the privilege of working for you at the Capitol in St. Paul. It continues to be a tremendous honor.

I’ve put together this update to highlight some of the accomplishments of the 2005 Legislative Session. The final budget offers good news for our schools, health care and jobs. I believe the work we accomplished this session will help Oakdale and Maplewood remain great places to live, work and raise a family.

As always, please feel free to call or write with your ideas, questions and comments.

Sincerely,

Nora

State Representative
NORA SLAWIK
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EDUCATION
★ This session, Nora helped pass the largest increase in education funding in 15 years.
★ North St. Paul-Maplewood-Oakdale School District will see an increase of up to $4.6 million in funding.
★ Nora’s leadership in the Early Childhood Caucus helped secure additional funds for ECFE, Headstart and a new initiative called the Minnesota Early Learning Foundation.
★ Nora’s anti-bullying bill—HF 408—which was included in the Omnibus Education Bill, will help schools establish guidelines to reduce bullying.

HEALTH CARE
★ Health insurance for over 30,000 working Minnesotans was protected.
★ Nora authored a bill—HF 1198—that will provide funding for emergency assistance and transitional housing for homeless families.

PUBLIC SAFETY
★ Nora voted for a strong, Get-Tough-On-Crime bill which includes longer sentences and tougher penalties for sex offenders.
★ Nora voted for key initiatives to curb the growing meth problem in the state.
★ Nora’s bill—HF 1603—which passed as part of the Omnibus Pensions bill, will strengthen the pension fund for Oakdale firefighters.

WORKING FOR THE FUTURE OF OAKDALE AND MAPLEWOOD
★ Nora authored a bill to provide $40 million in bonding for the interchange at Highway 94 and Century Avenue and McKnight Road. She also worked closely with MnDOT officials and the city of Maplewood to construct a berm to help address noise concerns in the Brookview neighborhood.
★ Nora helped secure $8.5 million in bonding for nearby Century College.
  ✓ $4.9 million will go toward the construction of new Technology Center.
  ✓ $1 million is dedicated for the new science and library design.
  ✓ $2.6 million will go to remodeling the nursing lab and pharmacy technician program area and infrastructure repairs.
★ Nora authored a bill—HF 713—to provide matching funds for a pedestrian/bicycle trail on the north side of Lower Afton Road.
★ Nora helped pass the first increase in the minimum wage in 8 years.