

## Rep. Leigh Finke

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# 2023 LEGISLATIVE REPORT

Dear Neighbors,

The 2023 legislative session was a success for Minnesotans! I was proud to pass hundreds of important bills with my colleagues, including expanding access to healthcare via MinnesotaCare for our undocumented neighbors, providing universal breakfast and lunch to Minnesota's students, investing in Great Start scholarships for our youngest learners, and a climate and energy bill that invests nearly \$250 million in new funding to lower energy costs, create more clean energy jobs, and address and combat climate change. We also made progress on issues including gun violence prevention, restoring voting rights to 55,000 Minnesotans, and establishing the nation's first office for Missing and Murdered Black Women and Girls.

It was an honor to lead the first Queer Caucus at the Minnesota Legislature. We have a massive responsibility to our LGBTQIA2S+ communities and their families to ensure we make our state a place of refuge and protection against the rise of hateful legislation from extremist Republicans across the country. Another major celebration to note is our fight to invest \$2 million in grant funding for gender-inclusive school restrooms.

I am committed to creating a more inclusive and equitable society for all Minnesotans. I will continue to work together and in solidarity with our allies to protect everyone so they can live openly without discrimination and embrace their human rights, personal autonomy, and freedom of expression and association.

I am grateful for your continued support. I look forward to working with you to make Minnesota a better place for all.

Sincerely,

*Leigh Finke*

Rep. Leigh Finke  
State Representative District 66A





**Rep. Leigh Finke**

## LEGISLATIVE REPORT 2023

### Protecting Human Rights

As an active member of the Reproductive Freedom Caucus, I was a fierce advocate for bodily autonomy and ensuring Minnesotans have the choice to make medical decisions about their health care. We passed the Protect Reproductive Options (PRO) Act which establishes that every Minnesotan has a fundamental right to make decisions about their own reproductive health, including the right to use or refuse reproductive health care, to continue a pregnancy and give birth, and to obtain an abortion.

Across the nation, LGBTQIA2S+ and trans youth have been under attack with staggering anti-LGBTQIA2S+ and anti-trans bills. It was my top priority to ensure Minnesota is a refuge state for current residents and incoming families. Under my leadership, we worked diligently to ensure Governor Walz signed the executive order for Trans Refuge and were relentless all session ensuring it became law.

### Improving Environment and Climate

Minnesota is one of the fastest-warming states due to climate change. I supported bills this session that will put us on the path to net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2040 by investing \$65 million in solar, wind, and energy storage throughout our state. Of those investments, I authored a bill to provide \$17 million worth of grants to preserve existing biomass energy infrastructure for purposes of local and regional Emerald Ash Borer response efforts.

### Gun Violence Prevention

During my first term, I took great pride in serving on the Judiciary Finance and Civil Law Committee to advance gun violence prevention measures to protect all Minnesotans. The House DFL passed laws reducing gun violence by implementing criminal background checks, a red flag law, violence prevention grants, increased penalties for switches, and funding for gun violence research. No other developed nation suffers under the deadly threat of firearms like the U.S. and I'm glad we took action.

