

2017 - 2018

Legislative Review



State Representative
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Dear Neighbor,

The 2017-2018 biennium will go down as one of the most productive in recent memory. Working under divided government, House Republicans completed the state budget, successfully advancing key priorities including:

- ✓ **The largest tax relief package for Minnesotans in nearly two decades.**
- ✓ **The largest investment in road and bridge infrastructure in state history without a gas tax increase.**
- ✓ **Nation-leading reforms to stop double-digit premium increases and expand health care options.**

I am especially pleased to have been successful in securing \$9 million in funding in the Capital Investment bill for reconstruction of the final, treacherous stretch of Highway 101 which will address an important public safety concern and top priority of Carver County's for years!

Cindy Pugh



Rep. Pugh speaking on the House floor to one of her two stand-alone bills which passed unanimously and were signed into law by Governor Dayton this legislative session.

Simplifying and Reducing Taxes

It's been nearly two decades since Minnesotans have received meaningful tax relief. The 2017 Tax Relief bill, championed by House Republicans, delivered \$650 million in tax relief to Minnesota families in 2018-2019 and \$790 million in 2020-2021.

- Nearly 284,000 senior citizen tax filers received tax reductions; 72,000 of those no longer pay state income tax on their social security benefits.
- A family of four making \$50,000 a year received an additional \$1,200 toward their child care expenses.
- 65,000 students received an average of a \$414 reduction in their taxes through a new tax credit for student loan payments.

Following the passage of major tax reform by Congress in 2017, House Republicans passed legislation to simplify the filing process and deliver tax relief to middle-class Minnesotans. In addition to blocking Governor Dayton's billion dollar tax increase, Republicans worked hard to:

- Hold 99.8 percent of Minnesota filers harmless with over 2.2 million benefiting from a tax cut.
- Help middle-class Minnesotans keep more of what they earn by cutting the first two income tax rates, the first rate cuts in almost two decades.
- Protect families by preserving the state personal & dependent exemption as well as standard and itemized deductions.

Health Care Costs

House Republicans worked quickly to lower costs and increase options for Minnesotans who have seen three years of double-digit premium increases and been restricted from seeing their doctors due to Obamacare.



Premium Security Plan: This nationally recognized program put a stop to double-digit premium increases, reducing premiums by 20 percent on average.



Emergency Premium Aid & Access: This reform provided a 25 percent rebate and ensured continued access to doctors for people receiving life-saving treatment.



Rep. Pugh with students from Chapel Hill Academy at the Capitol

Education & Student Safety

The 2017 K-12 Education Budget combined more than \$1.3 billion of increased funding, including a 2% yearly increase to the per-pupil formula that was requested by our school districts, with proven reforms.

We put student safety first this session by sending Governor Dayton more than \$50 million in funding to improve student safety – double the amount he proposed. The package gave school districts the resources and flexibility necessary to meet their school safety needs.

In 2018, Legislative Republicans also responded to calls from school district leaders facing emergency budget shortfalls due to declining enrollment and special needs funding issues with a package that made \$225 million available to schools.

Unfortunately, Governor Dayton vetoed all the emergency education funding and all but \$25 million in school safety funding.

Roads and Bridges

A top priority of House Republicans over the past two years was to increase safety and reduce traffic congestion by fixing the roads and bridges Minnesotans use every day. The Legislature invested a historic level of existing funds into our transportation infrastructure *without increasing the gas tax*.



A more than \$300 million influx of funding for roads over two years, with an additional \$16 million for small cities' road projects.



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

House Republicans built off 2017's historic transportation investment by passing \$57 million in funding for roads and bridges this year, with a majority of that dedicated to small cities assistance, township road aid, and local bridge replacement.

Furthermore, the Capital Investment package signed into law by Governor Dayton includes \$519 million for long-term transportation needs.

Advocating for Everyday Minnesotans



Childcare - We enacted reforms to childcare in Minnesota that will bring down costs while ensuring our children are properly cared for and safe.



Opioid Crisis - Almost 400 people die each year from opioids in Minnesota. Legislators sent a bill to the governor to provide a rate increase for chemical dependency providers, enhance the Prescription Monitoring Program, and institute prescription limits to reduce the availability of opioids.



DMV Disaster - After the mismanagement of MNLARS – the state's broken license and registration system used at DMVs – Republicans held the administration accountable, demanded a detailed plan, and increased oversight to resolve the issue moving forward.