

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From
**JON
ERPENBACH**



STATE SENATOR

Bipartisan Bill Requiring Disclosure, Reporting for 'Issue Ads' Passes Senate

The fight for clean government scored a big win after bipartisan legislation I authored passed the state Senate requiring organizations engaging in so-called "issue ads" to report on the sources of their funding and their expenditures.

This is common sense, bipartisan legislation requiring everyone plays by the same rules. We are trying to shed light on the sources of money coming into our state to pay these groups who to hijack elections from the citizens of Wisconsin.

My legislation (SB 77) creates reporting and registration requirements for expenditures and disbursements for anyone who through paid communications mentions a candidate, political party or state office to be

filled in that election, within 60 days of any election.

The people of Wisconsin sent a message demanding we move forward on campaign finance reform. As Vice Chair of the Senate Campaign Finance Reform Committee, I know we took an important step towards ensuring fair elections.

In the past, a number of organizations have utilized a loophole in the law to pay for communications intent of influencing voters. They operate on the fringes without having to disclose where they raised the money in order to pay for these communications.

In the most recent State Supreme Court race, over \$3 million was spent on issue ads – far eclipsing what the candidates themselves spent. The source of the money paying for those advertisements remains unknown.

We have put a responsible plan forward to keep elections clean. It is essential for democracy that citizens have faith in the integrity of their elections.

Sen. Erpenbach can be reached at 266-6670 or 1-888-549-0027 or senator.erpenbach@legis.state.wi.us

From
**DAVE
TRAVIS**



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Wisconsin's efforts to save Seniorcare

Wisconsin seniors have benefited from and greatly depend on Wisconsin's SeniorCare Program, which provides affordable prescription drug coverage. Federal government administrative officials have been trying to kill SeniorCare despite the overwhelming public support of the program and repeated pleas by Governor Jim Doyle; the Wisconsin Legislature and our federal representatives in Washington.

However, at the last minute, Wisconsin's Democratic federal representatives (led by U.S. Senator Russ Feingold; U.S. Senator Herb Kohl; Congressman Dave Obey; Congresswoman Tammy Baldwin and Congresswoman Gwen Moore) stood their ground and negotiated a two-and-a-half year extension of the SeniorCare Program. This hard-fought agreement was ultimately included in the Emergency Supplemental Spending Bill expected to be signed into law in the near future.

This is fantastic news for Wisconsin's seniors currently enrolled in this program, as well as other eligible seniors who may be looking for a better alternative to the federal government's flawed Medicare Part D Plan. SeniorCare has proved to offer Wisconsin seniors the best possible prescription drug coverage at the best possible price. It is anticipated with the extension of SeniorCare that the state will also retain its negotiating power over the drug companies, so both seniors and taxpayers receive a great deal.

SeniorCare is so important to so many people within the 81st Assembly District and throughout Wisconsin that it would have been a financial burden for many if this program would have been discontinued. Due to the valiant and unwavering personal efforts of

Governor Jim Doyle; Senator Feingold, Senator Kohl, and Congressional Representatives Obey, Baldwin and Moore over 103,000 Wisconsin low-income seniors will save over \$27 million in their prescription drug bills. I think Congresswoman Gwen Moore (D-Milwaukee) summed it up the best when she said, "Hallelujah, sweet success at last!"

Rep. Travis, Northside resident and State Representative, can be reached at 266-5340, rep.travis@legis.state.wi.us

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