

NEWS AND VIEWS FROM ELECTED OFFICIALS

From  
**DAVE TRAVIS**



**STATE REPRESENTATIVE**

**Pulse of our district...staying informed on the needs of the 81st State Assembly District**

In February, you may have received a survey in your mailbox representing key issues facing Wisconsin. The survey gauged citizen support and opposition to 14 different questions including: carrying concealed weapons, stem cell research, smoking ordinances, and ethanol.

First, I would like to thank all of you who took the time to fill out the survey and send it back. I am always happy to hear what people have on their minds and in their hearts. In addition, these surveys are vital in helping me assess the way our district wants and needs to be represented.

In the questionnaire, an overwhelming 86% of respondents felt Wisconsin residents should not be allowed to carry concealed weapons in a public building. 68% of district residents felt that Wisconsin should not restrict stem cell research, 18% supported the restriction and 14% were undecided. In addition, 53% of residents felt that ethanol will help to reduce our dependence on foreign oil with 26% saying no and 21% undecided. 35% supported amending the Wisconsin Constitution to prohibit gay marriage and domestic

partnerships, while 55% opposed the idea and 10% were undecided.

Aside from the survey, I was very pleased that many individuals included additional comments on a variety of state-related issues. I find that mailed district-wide opinion surveys offer constituents an opportunity to respond, at their convenience, which results in a higher number of responses. Since February, I have received over 1,600 survey responses, which included many constituent requests for assistance and ideas for future legislation. I always appreciate when citizens take time out of their busy day to contact me and share their thoughts. Representing the interests of the citizens of the 81st Assembly District is my top priority.

During the upcoming summer months, please feel free to call me if I can be of any assistance on a state-related issue. Thank you, again, to those who returned my legislative survey. I value and respect your personal input!

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

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From  
**JON ERPENBACH**



**STATE SENATOR**

**Juvenile Diabetes Foundation saving lives through research**

The Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International (JDRF) is the leading charitable funding organization and advocate of type 1 diabetes research worldwide. Their mission is simple: find a cure for diabetes.

The JDRF was founded in 1970 by parents of children with type 1 diabetes. Since its inception it has awarded more than \$900 million to diabetes research. In 2005 alone, it awarded \$98 million to directly support research and research-related education. It has dispersed money to 500 centers, grants, and fellowships in 19 different countries.

The statistics on diabetes in our country are staggering. As many as 3 million Americans have type 1 diabetes. Each year more than 13,000 children are diagnosed, that averages out to about 35 children per day. The causes of diabetes are not yet fully understood. That is why the JDRF is dependent upon, and has benefited from, scientific research happening right here in Wisconsin.

Governor Doyle has pledged his support for life-saving bio-medical

research. He has vetoed legislation that would cripple Wisconsin's ability to perform the kind of research that would directly benefit the JDRF and other organizations dedicated to finding a cure for chronic diseases.

According to the Governor and the University of Wisconsin System, plans to advance Wisconsin's role in life saving research include:

A new \$375 million public-private research institute, to be known as the Wisconsin Institutes for Discovery.

A new \$134 million interdisciplinary research complex near University Hospital and Clinics. The new center would be translational in nature, helping bring basic research discoveries to clinical fruition at a more rapid pace.

\$1.5 million annually to support research on Alzheimer's disease at UW-Madison.

A new \$132 million research facility at the Medical College of Wisconsin and Children's Hospital that will focus on infectious disease control, cardiovascular illnesses and bio-engineering.

We need to support the research that began right here in Wisconsin, and give hope to the millions of Americans who are affected by these illnesses.

Special Thanks to the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International for providing statistics and information for this column.

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

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