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Legislative Update

March 22, 2010

Hello from Saint Paul,

This update includes brief summaries on recent news including:

GAMC

The Bonding Bill

Broadband Survey

GAMC

Over the past several weeks, I have heard from many of you regarding General Assistance Medical Care. I wanted to give you an update about the progress on bringing forward a solution on this important issue.

After a great deal of work, a good solution has been reached that saves the taxpayers more than \$700 million while still providing coverage to the poorest Minnesotans relying on GAMC.



This new, nation-leading reform will cost a considerable amount less while still preserving coverage. I have and will continue to be committed to getting help to the people who need it most. Minnesotans are known for our kind and giving nature, and this is part of what makes our state great. I am glad to see that the focus has shifted from preserving a broken program at risk of bankrupting our state to finding a better way to provide for those who need our help the most. This bill is currently moving through committee and I expect that the Legislature will be taking a final vote on this proposal sometime this week. I will keep you updated on its progress.

The Bonding Bill

Two weeks ago, the Legislature passed a \$1 billion bonding bill which I voted against because of its size and lack of priorities. Early last week the Governor used his power of the line-item veto to shrink the bill down to \$680. This made the bill much more focused. While there are good bonding projects in this bill for Minnesota, I remain concerned that the size of this bill is simply too large and borrows hundreds of millions of dollars that the state simply does not have.

Broadband

Google is planning to build and test ultra-high speed broadband networks in a number of communities around

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the country. This will give users Internet speeds 100 times faster than the average connection—1 gigabyte per second. Apple Valley is applying to be one of these communities. You can show your support by visiting the web site and filling out the survey by March 24.

Here is the link:

www.cityofapplevalley.org

Survey

In my update last week I sent a link to my 2010 legislative survey.

For those of you who might have missed it, here is the link again:

<http://www.house.leg.state.mn.us/survey/37A.asp>

Finally, in case you have had trouble reaching me of late, I wanted to let you know our e-mail server has been down for most of the last four days. It is now working again, but unfortunately many of my e-mails have been lost. The IT department is working diligently to recover the data, but if you tried to e-mail me in the last few days I have probably not received it. I apologize for the inconvenience, and thanks for your patience.



Please continue to call and e-mail with your thoughts on the issues we face. You can also connect to me on Facebook.

Best Regards,

Tara Mack

For more information please visit my Web site:

www.house.mn/37A