

Bob

Dettmer

State Representative

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Serving the Communities of:

- Centerville
- Columbus
- Forest Lake
- Hugo
- Linwood Township
- Lino Lakes
- Scandia



Representative Dettmer (middle) with (from left to right) his son, Robb, daughter, Krystle, wife, Colleen, and son, Travis.



State Representative **Bob Dettmer**

2011 State Capitol Legislative Update

Dear Neighbors,

Protecting Minnesota families has taken top priority in the 2011 Legislative Session. These challenging economic times require the state to put families first, not government growth.

The final compromise between the legislature and governor, in addition to not raising taxes, implements a number of reforms to control future spending, prioritize students and protect our state's constitutional obligations to its citizens.

We were able to include pivotal reforms in the areas of K12 education and health and human services, as well as increase funding for military and veterans services. In this year's budget reform, mandate relief and cost savings were implemented across the board in every part of state government. The budget protects Minnesota's most vulnerable while helping to check projected spending down the road. I am pleased that the legislature was able to negotiate these important policy changes and fiscal reform into the final budget bills.

Thank you for the privilege of representing you in the Minnesota House of Representatives. I look forward to spending my time in our district this fall as I continue to meet with community members and citizens to help bring their concerns to St. Paul.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can ever be of service to you or your family!

Sincerely,

HONORING OUR VETERANS

CAMPUS ADVISORS FOR VETERANS (HF 384)

The Veterans Higher Education Assistance Program bill will continue a program on higher education campuses to assist veterans in applying for the GI Bill and other educational funding. These counselors provide information and advice regarding enrolling, registering, transferring military credits and other necessary information for entering into and successfully pursuing a degree. We passed legislation to fully fund the program.

DISABLED VETERANS HOMESTEAD CREDIT EXPANDED (HF 240)

Disabled veterans homestead market value exemption eligibility is extended for surviving spouses, and qualified disabled veterans' approved primary family and caregivers.

EXPANDING GOLD STAR LICENSE PLATES (HF 232)

Signed into law by Governor Dayton, Rep. Dettmer worked to expand qualifications for gold

star license plates to include legal guardians, children and siblings of service members who sacrificed their life for this country. Rep. Dettmer is honored to continue to support veterans and their families.

ENDING TAXES ON MILITARY PENSIONS (HF 82)

Having earned their pensions through their dedication, sacrifice and commitment to this great nation, our retired military deserve to have their benefits exempt from taxation. *

* indicates bills have **not** been signed into law

STREAMLINING PERMITTING

House Republicans passed legislation which was signed into law by Governor Dayton streamlining the permitting process for businesses, aiding business development and expansion. We need to remove obstacles in state government that cause our job creators to look across the border for their business operations. Our economic recovery begins with sensible regulatory reform that will save time and money while protecting the environment and public health.



Left: Rep. Dettmer was joined by Capt. Peter Demos and Petty Officer First Class Shawn Williams on the floor of the House of Representatives.

PUBLIC SAFETY

A new law increases the penalty for those fleeing peace officers. In an effort to further protect peace officers from harm, Rep. Dettmer co-authored this legislation. Under the new law penalties are increased if a criminal abandons the vehicle in which they've been fleeing from an officer and continues on foot, and the officer is then seriously hurt or killed. This law will serve to protect the heroic peace officers who protect our community.

Education: Preparing Our Children For Success

Education is the cornerstone of a productive society. Throughout the 2011 legislative session, reforming Minnesota's education system to better deliver a quality education to students has been a top priority. Spending nearly \$500 million more on K12 education, key reforms have been added to empower students to reach their education goals. In addition to increasing funding for our schools, the Legislature embraced an education budget that structurally improved how funds are allocated so that each school, regardless of geographical location, receives adequate funding.

Education is the key to unlocking endless possibilities. Currently, Minnesota schools are working to educate each of our children but we need to be creative as we move into a new, more globalized world. Legislators and schools must work together, share ideas about innovation and give schools every opportunity for success. During this legislative session, Republican legislators operated under the motto "kids first: no excuses, no exceptions" as they looked to embrace reform and innovation in an effort to address the education issues facing this state.

As a retired teacher, Rep. Dettmer understands just how hard our schools work to prepare children for success. Innovation and cooperation must go hand-in-hand as schools and the state work together to improve K12 education.

Local Issues Championed by Rep. Dettmer

BRINGING NEW TEACHERS INTO THE CLASSROOM

Realizing we must have quality educators in the classroom if our children are to excel, Rep. Dettmer co-authored Alternative Teacher Licensure legislation. Signed into law by Governor Dayton, Minnesota professionals can now become teachers.

WASHINGTON COUNTY VETERANS CAMP FUNDED

Rep. Dettmer carried legislation to continue funding a grant allowing the Washington County Disabled Veterans Rest Camp to make much needed improvements. The camp site is for veterans and their families.



EXPANDING THE USE OF SCHOOL ATHLETIC CENTERS

The bill clarifies current state statute liability language for schools to host other fitness related organizations and activities. By opening up who is able to use fitness centers and sports fields, we can continue to support healthy living for kids in our district. As a retired coach, teacher and fitness advocate, Rep. Dettmer is happy Governor Dayton signed this bill into law.

FUNDING EDUCATION AND OUR CHILDREN'S FUTURE

Increasing the per-pupil spending formula will greatly benefit local schools. Here is a breakdown of the additional funds:

Forest Lake

FY 2012: Up \$109 per pupil from 2011
FY 2013: Up \$270 per pupil from 2011

White Bear Lake

FY 2012: Up \$193 per pupil from 2011
FY 2013: Up \$504 per pupil from 2011

Centennial

FY 2012: Up \$191 per pupil from 2011
FY 2013: Up \$415 per pupil from 2011