

**Action Alert - Legislative Session**  
**Coming Down To The Wire!**

As the session gets "down to the wire" bills are moving quickly, being combined with others, amended, coming up for votes, and going into conference committees. At this point, the most important thing is to ask your Legislators vote on the issues in accordance with your concerns and wishes (regardless of which bill number they are using at this time or if they now exist as amendments on other bills).

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**House & Senate Omnibus Health and Human Services Bill**  
**(includes HF1422 / SF1313)**

Since the House and Senate bills differ on many points, a Conference Committee has been appointed to negotiate a compromise between the bills.

Please ask that these bad provisions be eliminated from the final version of the bill:

- Total elimination of funding for the Minnesota AIDS Project (MAP)
- Several adverse Minnesota Family Investment Program funding issues.
- Eliminates MinnesotaCare eligibility for many low-income working Minnesotans.
- Several adverse child care provisions.
- Funding for the so-called "Positive Alternatives Act" which allocates money for so-called "clinics" where (*according to the Minnesota Women's Press*) women are often given erroneous information about abortion, given non-medical sonograms, and mislead about the amount of government support they can expect if they decide to carry a pregnancy to term. Some of these clinics do not even employ medical professionals. This is an MCCL initiated project. For the MWP article: <http://www.womenspress.com/newspaper/2005/2026life.html>

We should support the Senate approach, which does a better job of helping Minnesota's working families. It will be particularly important for you to contact your legislator if they are appointed to the conference committee.

**Voice Your Support for the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women (LCESW) Demand their Funding Be Reinstated!**

The House GOP Majority had eliminated the Legislative Commission on the Economic Status of Women but Representative Phyllis Kahn was able to restore the commission - but not the funding - in an amendment on the House floor. Apparently there are lots of other provisions in the bill relating to elections and veterans that enjoy widespread bipartisan support.

The commission advises the legislature and provides basic information and statistics on women in Minnesota. The commission gathers information on population characteristics, educational attainment and enrollments, marital and parental status, household characteristics, labor force status and employment characteristics, and basic information on women's legal and economic rights. Please contact your legislators to voice your support and ask for their funding!

Visit the LCESW Homepage to for all kinds of great information on women in Minnesota: <http://lcesw.leg.mn/>

The members of the LCESW are:

House	Senate
Rep. Melissa Hortman	Sen. Linda Berglin
Rep. Karen Klinzing	Sen. Leo Foley
Rep. Neil Peterson	Sen. Becky Lourey
Rep. Connie Ruth	Sen. Julianne Ortman
Rep. Katie Sieben	Sen. Sandra Pappas

**Senate Education Omnibus Bill**

This bill includes the Comprehensive Sexual Education provision and now we need to convince House members to include a similar revision in their omnibus bill to keep the legislation moving forward this session. Please call or email your state Representative and let them know how important comp sex ed is for prevention of HIV, STDs and unplanned pregnancies.

**Stadium Talk: Special Session?**

The Hennepin County Baseball Stadium sales tax proposal may prompt a special session. Representatives Dan Dorman, Gene Pelowski, and other greater Minnesota legislators want to tie the proposed 0.15% Hennepin County stadium tax to local taxes on goods or services by allowing cities to increase those taxes without the legislative permission required under current law.

Representative Phil Krinkie, chair of the House Tax Committee is a candidate for the US Congress and he will oppose ANY tax increase, making this bill a very tough sell in his committee. A special session on the stadium and the local sales tax eliminates the Krinkie obstacle.

Contact your Legislators and tell them we've got better things to spend our money on, like health care, education, MFIP, and other needed programs to help the people of Minnesota.

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**From the Minnesota Council of Non-Profits:**

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**TAXES AS PART OF THE BUDGET SOLUTION  
PRESS EVENT, LETTERS, CALLS AND EMAIL**

The end of the regular session is in sight and all key budget decisions are on the table. The Minnesota Council of Nonprofits and the Minnesota is Watching Coalition urge nonprofit, labor, faith based organizations, and all Minnesotans to let legislators know we want them to make taxes a part of the budget solution. Our key message is:

**We need it. We can afford it. Make taxes part of the solution.  
Take this reasonable leadership position.**

**Deluge legislators and the Governor's office with letters, emails, and phone calls, calling for taxes as part of the solution.**

The next two weeks are the crunch times for budget decisions at the Capitol.

Call, write, and/or email your legislators, as well as Speaker Sviggum, Majority Leader Dean Johnson, and Governor Pawlenty. Let them know that taxes need to be part of the solution. Below is a information you may wish to include in a letter to legislators and the Governor; adapt it to meet your specific interests and concerns:

**Every Minnesotan deserves a safe, decent, affordable place to call home: workers need affordable housing to make ends meet; children need stable housing to do their best in school; and preventing homelessness saves state resources as well as provides a solution for ending homelessness.**

Minnesota's nursing homes need more funding for quality care for their residents and affordable health care for their workers.

The 30,000 Minnesotans whose health care coverage will be canceled are hard working people we all know-the barber down the street, the waitress working two jobs, small employers who can't afford group insurance, the farmer who has no alternative, the nursing home care assistant who cares for you mother-we can't turn our backs on our friends and neighbors.

We know that good quality child care gets children ready for school and helps parents stay in the workforce. The state's lack of investment in child care will result in fewer children who are ready for kindergarten and fewer stable, reliable workers in our economy.

In every classroom across the state, children should have a desk, a book, a highly qualified teacher, and a chance to succeed.

Our lakes, forests, and prairies are what make Minnesota a great place to live, work, and play. Cleaning up our most contaminated waters, and protecting our forests and prairies is crucial for our health and our environment.

***PLEASE JOIN HUNDREDS OF MINNESOTA ORGANIZATIONS URGING LEADERS TO BUILD A BUDGET THAT KEEPS MINNESOTA WHOLE - TAXES HAVE TO BE PART OF THAT SOLUTION!***



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