

PIONEER PRESS JAN 22 '09
SENATE DISTRICT 55 >

Lawmakers plan town hall meetings

Residents living in Minnesota Senate District 55 are invited to attend town hall meetings Saturday in Oakdale and North St. Paul.

Sen. Chuck Wiger, DFL-North St. Paul, and Reps. Leon Lillie, DFL-North St. Paul, and Nora Slawik, DFL-Maplewood, and U.S. Rep. Betty McCollum are hosting the events to meet with their constituents.

The House District 55B meeting is at 8:30 a.m. at Oakdale City Hall, 1584 Hadley Ave. The District 55A meeting is at 10 a.m. in the Northwood Room of the North St. Paul Community Center, 2290 First Street N.

For information about the meetings, contact Wiger's office at 651-296-6820 or sen.chuck.wiger@senate.mn.

— Megan Boldt

55A

PIONEER PRESS APR 22 '99
**Protecting vulnerable
Minnesotans**

I was very pleased to see the series begun April 19 ("Crisis in long-term care") by Jeremy Olson. It describes so well the situation in so many homes.

Last week, as a member of an AARP advocating team, I visited with my legislators, Sen. Charles Wiger and Rep. Leon Lillie, to discuss our concern that vulnerable Minnesotans be protected from severe budget cuts. We need to ensure that we maintain important health care and long-term care safety nets. Fully funding home- and community-based services should be a priority, so we can fund adequate staff and ensure quality health care for our elders.

The legislators shared our concerns and were very receptive to our suggestions. We urged them to find a balanced approach to the budget dilemma. Health and human services should not take a disproportionate share of the cuts. Increasing revenues should be a serious part of the discussions.

Christeen M. Stone, Maplewood

55A

PIONEER PRESS APR 30 '09

Bill says U can't limit alcohol sales

The University of Minnesota could not restrict alcohol sales to suites and other premium seating at its new football stadium under legislation that cleared the Minnesota House on Wednesday.

✓ Rep. Leon Lillie, DFL-North St. Paul, proposed that alcohol be available throughout the stadium or not at all. His colleagues adopted his amendment and then voted 124-10 to pass a much larger liquor bill.

The House adopted a similar stance in a higher education bill approved last week. Language to that effect is contained in Senate legislation, according to Sen. David Tomassoni, DFL-Chisholm.

✓ Last year, the U's Board of Regents voted to allow alcohol to be sold in those restricted areas after proponents argued it would help sell prime seating packages. The on-campus stadium opens in September.

For the past quarter-century, the U's football team has played in the Metrodome, where anyone of legal drinking age can buy alcohol.

— Dennis Lien

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