

Rep. Joyce Peppin

"Unfortunately, the governor backtracked on that agreement this week, changing the parameters and choosing not to have his office or his commissioners engage in the conference committee negotiating process or set joint targets by the agreed-upon date. With less than a month to go in session, it is frustrating the governor is choosing not to join us at this time in working on a bipartisan compromise to end session on time."

Rep. Peggy Bennett

"It is our desire to come together with a responsible budget that prioritizes education, tax relief, and road and bridge funding, but we need the Governor to take an active role now in order to accomplish that. None of us wants to see the "log jam" of bills in the final hours of session that has been so typical for many years, nor do we want a special session. It is my hope that the Governor will engage in these negotiations sooner rather than later so that neither of these things happen, and we can get a good, responsible budget passed for Minnesotans."

Rep. Deb Kiel

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Rep. Tim O'Driscoll

"Currently the committees are reviewing individual proposals contained within each of the omnibus bills and determining whether they should stay or go. It is a long process to be sure, but one that must take place in order to move forward and ultimately help set the state's budget. In the meantime we continue to try and engage Governor Dayton and his staff to work with us on the financial portions of our bills."

Rep. Dab Fabian

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Rep. Tony Cornish

"While budget negotiations in all areas of state government are happening between the Minnesota House and Senate, one key participant has so far refused to enter the discussion: Governor Dayton. We were led to believe that the governor wanted to enjoin in targets before May 1, so we approved our spending bills prior to Easter so we could make this happen. Now he's changed his mind and moved the goalposts once again."

House and Senate conferees were also led to believe that the governor's commissioners could negotiate on his behalf. We recently learned that is not the case. In areas as important as public safety, judiciary and homeland security, we're talking about core functions of government. It puts us in a really tough spot if they refuse to share their priorities as we get closer to the end of session. We want to send Governor Dayton bills he will sign, and the only way that can happen is if he tells us what he wants. I hope he joins us at the negotiating table very soon."

Rep. Bud Nornes

"As for legislative news, the Legislature is now in its final full month before adjournment is scheduled. The aggressive deadline for bills that was set this session has us about three weeks ahead of the typical pace as we work to tie down the loose ends on omnibus finance bills. It is disappointing the governor has chosen to be disengaged from the conference committee process this week."

It would be helpful if the governor and his staff would become more involved so we can reach an overall agreement between the House, Senate and his office before bills are sent to him for enactment. For example, the House put forward a tax bill with \$1.35 billion in relief for senior citizens, small businesses, college grads with student debt, farmers and others. It would be good to know now if he's on board with the package of tax relief we are proposing or, if not, what can be done to get his signature."



Rep. Joyce Peppin 34A - Legislative Update

News Items



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Business:

Education: B.A., political science
and speech communications,
University of Minnesota Duluth;
M.B.A. management, University
of St. Thomas; J.D., William
Mitchell College of Law

Elected: 2004

Term: 7th

Family: Married

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address.

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Here is an update from the Capitol.

In this Issue:

- Budget Negotiations
- Advocating for our Littlest Learners
- Protecting Women and Taxpayers
- Community Events
- Peppin's MinnTriv

Budget Negotiations

Last week, I shared that Speaker Daudt and I agreed to Governor Dayton's terms that we would work with him and his administration to set joint budget targets by today, April 28th. We agreed that working with the Senate and governor in an open and transparent conference committee process would help state leaders come to a final budget compromise that best serves the people and priorities of our state.

Unfortunately, the governor backtracked on that agreement this week, changing the parameters and choosing not to have his office or his commissioners engage in the conference committee negotiating process or set joint targets by the agreed-upon date. With less than a month to go in session, it is frustrating the governor is choosing not to join us at this time in working on a bipartisan compromise to end session on time.

House and Senate Republicans have worked hard to get budget bills passed ahead of schedule and are still working in conference committees this week and weekend to find common ground on budget bills. Earlier today, we announced our own legislative joint budget targets with the goal of continuing to move forward for a successful end of session.

[Budget Negotiations Continue](#) -
(Posted: 2017-04-28)

[Budget Negotiations](#) - (Posted:
2017-04-21)

[Health Care](#) - (Posted: 2017-
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I will keep you updated as we continue to work toward a final budget compromise.

Advocating for our Littlest Learners

On Monday, House Republicans were joined by parents, community advocates and business leaders to stress the importance of early learning scholarships and a targeted early education approach that best serves Minnesota's littlest learners and their families.

As we negotiate a final education budget, House Republicans have advanced a bill that includes more than \$300 million in targeted funding for early learning initiatives including scholarships and school readiness aid. Our nation-leading mixed delivery system of early education options give parents the choice to find programs that work best for them and their child, as well as allows us to focus dollars on low-income and at-risk children who need it most.

Additionally, our bill also includes \$40 million for enhanced school readiness aid for school districts currently offering voluntary pre-kindergarten, so they can either continue the program or fund other early education needs that work best for their students, parents and schools.

In contrast, Governor Dayton is demanding the Legislature provide funding to expand voluntary pre-k in Minnesota. The governor is insisting on this very costly approach even though many school districts in Minnesota oppose this mandate as they do not have the classroom space or teachers to handle this level of increase in pre-k education. Secondly, doing so would cause financial hardship to the many high quality pre-k providers in our state, not to mention home daycare providers, many of which offer excellent pre-k education services.

I will share more about education funding and early learning as we move closer to the end of session.

Protecting Women and Taxpayers

This past week, the House passed on a bipartisan basis two bills that address taxpayer funding and the safety of women who choose abortion services in Minnesota.

The first bill, House File 809, would allow Minnesota to join 33 other states and the federal government by

prohibiting tax dollars from funding abortions. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, taxpayer funded abortions have grown to 43.3 percent of all abortions performed in the state. As a pro-life legislator, I believe this is a reasonable step that puts Minnesota in line with common practice throughout the United States.

The second bipartisan bill stands up for the health and safety of women, requiring facilities to follow industry guidelines and standards to ensure they are meeting safety, sanitary and health standards to protect patients. It would also require the Minnesota Department of Health to license and inspect facilities—something not currently being done. This is a commonsense bill that does not block access or close down facilities in Minnesota, and I believe should be supported by people on both sides of this issue.

Community Events

The Rogers Seniors will be hosting bingo on Monday, May 8 from 1 to 3 p.m. at the Rogers Senior Center on Main Street in downtown Rogers. Bring friends and neighbors, meet other great folks and win cash prizes!

The eighth annual Rogers Revue will be held at Word of Peace Church in Rogers on May 17th starting at 7:00 p.m. The event raises funds for Rogers senior programs. The Revue is a showcase of local talent and is not a judged contest. If you would like to perform in front of a supportive local crowd, don't be shy! For more information contact Harold Trombley at 763-257-2956 or Michael Sahlen at 612-867-4627.

The Maple Grove Arbor Day Committee is hosting their annual Arbor Day Celebration tomorrow from noon to 3 p.m. at the Maple Grove Community Center. Events include a University of Minnesota Raptor Center show, a Reptile and Amphibian Discovery Zoo, face painting, a free Arbor Day tote bag and tree seedlings (while supplies last), and free tree and garden advice by Master Gardeners and tree care advisors.

Peppin's MinnTriv

Thank you to everyone who participated in last week's MinnTriv Question. The question was: *What is Minnesota's newest city?* The answer is Rice Lake City,

which was created after Rice Lake Township organized into a city in October 2015.

Congratulations to Ivan Leishman from Maple Grove for having the first correct response!

Here is this week's question:

19 cities in Minnesota have a population over:

a) 50,000 residents

b) 62,000 residents

c) 76,000 residents

Respond to this email with your answer, and you could be featured in next week's email update!

In order to best represent our communities, I need to hear from you, so please don't hesitate to contact my office at any time. My direct line is 651-296-7806. My email address is rep.joyce.peppin@house.mn and my mailing address is Room 459 State Office Building, 100 Dr. Martin Luther King Boulevard, St. Paul, MN 55155.

Have a wonderful weekend.

Sincerely,

Joyce

**Encourage your neighbors and friends to sign up for my email updates at www.house.mn/34A

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Dear Neighbors,

Technology Committee

This session, I was recently appointed to Select Committee on Technology and Responsive Government. Our goal on this committee is to harness technological advancements to make government more consumer-friendly and efficient for Minnesotans. More and more we interact with state and local government using technology, and we need to make sure this is as efficient as possible.

We held our first hearing this week, and I'm excited about the potential to improve government accessibility. I am very passionate about government being here to serve the people, and I think technology is a great tool to help government do that. I am excited to be a part of this committee and looking forward to some good bipartisan work to help make government more responsive to its citizens!

As this committee continues to gather input, we're planning to hold meetings at various places around the state to make sure we hear from all Minnesotans. We can't wait to hear from you!

Women's Conference

I want to thank KJLY for inviting me to speak at their annual women's conference in Mankato last Saturday. I had the opportunity to share my story on how I went from being a teacher to a state representative with about 50 women at one of the mini-sessions that day. I sure enjoyed being at the conference and meeting a lot of amazing women!

Budget

The Senate and House have both passed their budget bills, and the details are currently being worked out in conference committees. We have been working around the clock over the past two weeks to finalize these bills, but these bodies are only two-thirds of the equation. It is critical that we have the Governor and his staff engaged in these conference committee negotiations right now - and we have been requesting that. Things in the legislature have been running very smoothly thus far and we are ahead of schedule.

It is our desire to come together with a responsible budget that prioritizes education, tax relief, and road and bridge funding, but we need the Governor to take an active role *now* in order to accomplish that. None of us wants to see the "log jam" of bills in the final hours of session that has been so typical for many years, nor do we want a special session. It is my hope that the Governor will engage in these negotiations sooner rather than later so that neither of these things happen, and we can get a good, responsible budget passed for Minnesotans.

Please Contact Me

As always, please feel free to reach out via phone or email if you ever need anything. I'm here to help and would love for you to contact me!

Enjoy your weekend!

Peggy



Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Here is an update from the Capitol.

Working to Protect Women and Taxpayers

Explaining my bill, House File 812, to the House on Monday.

On Monday, the House passed two bipartisan bills related to the abortion industry.

The first, House File 809, prohibits taxpayer funding for abortions, which would add Minnesota to a list of 33 other states and the federal government who have similar measures in place. According to the Minnesota Department of Health, taxpayer funded abortions have grown to more than 43 percent of all abortions performed in the state, and many Minnesotans rightly expect that their tax dollars should not fund something they morally oppose.

The other bill is House File 812, legislation I authored that protects the health and safety of women who choose to get an abortion in Minnesota. That bill would require any facility that performs ten or more abortions per month to be licensed and inspected by the Minnesota Department of Health. They would be evaluated by evidence-based clinical standards put forth by their own industry, ensuring they meet and continue to meet safety, sanitary and health standards to protect patients.

For my bill in particular, we worked to amend the legislation and address concerns of pro-choice advocates in the bill. This is legislation that I believe both pro-choice and pro-life legislators can agree upon. It's commonsense for government to license these facilities—something not currently being done, and I am extremely disappointed that Governor Dayton stated he would veto both my bill and HF 809 earlier this week.

Conference Committee Negotiations

I am frustrated to report that Governor Dayton backtracked on his word and changed the parameters of budget negotiations, choosing not to negotiate in the conference committee process this week. Originally, he had asked us to join him in setting joint budget targets by Friday, April 28th which legislative leaders agreed to do.

House and Senate conference committees are continuing to work on legislation including tax relief, agriculture, transportation and education, but with less than a month remaining in session, it would be helpful for the governor and his commissioners to engage in the process. Doing so means we can come to a bipartisan agreement in a timely manner, and pass a budget that works for the people and priorities

of Minnesota. The House and Senate released their own joint budget targets today to keep negotiations moving forward.

What's more, Governor Dayton is also refusing to listen to the farmers and rural folks in Greater Minnesota who are asking to delay the implementation of the buffer law. Earlier this week in a press conference he stated he would not negotiate on the issue, ignoring the priorities of rural communities across the state and refusing to work with legislators on a commonsense compromise.

I will keep you updated as negotiations continue.

Sincerely,

Deb

*****Encourage your neighbors and friends to sign up for my email updates at www.house.mn/01B***



Rep. Tim O'Driscoll 13B - Legislative Update

News Items



Speaker Pro Tempore

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Home: P.O. Box 225 Sartell
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Occupation: Corporate trainer

Business:

Education: B.S., real estate and
business education, St. Cloud
State University

Born: 4/22/1964

Elected: 2010

Term: 4th

Greetings,

Conference committee negotiations in all of the spending areas within state government – K-12 Education, public safety, environment, etc. – are moving full speed ahead. The committees are made up of five representatives and five senators, and they will eventually create proposals within their specific funding area that can be approved in both the House and Senate.

Currently the committees are reviewing individual proposals contained within each of the omnibus bills and determining whether they should stay or go. It is a long process to be sure, but one that must take place in order to move forward and ultimately help set the state's budget.

In the meantime we continue to try and engage Governor Dayton and his staff to work with us on the financial portions of our bills.

This week the Minnesota House approved a pair of bills that protect women's health and protect the taxpayers when it comes to funding abortions. To be truthful, these provisions are more common sense than they are controversial.

The first requires the Minnesota Department of Health to license and inspect facilities that perform ten or more abortions per month. Women who enter these facilities rightly expect that they are safe, sanitary and licensed. This change – already implemented by 25 other states – would ensure that expectation.

The second bill would prohibit taxpayer funding of abortions from state-sponsored health programs administered by the Minnesota Department of Human Services. Both bills were approved on a bipartisan basis in the House.

[LEGISLATIVE UPDATE](#) -

(Posted: 2017-04-06)

[Legislative Update](#) - (Posted:
2017-03-31)

[Capitol Update](#) - (Posted:
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Family:

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Children's foster care rights

The House also approved a bill this week that would inform children in foster care that are at least ten years old of their right to a no-cost attorney in a juvenile proceeding, and would apply to kids who have been removed from their homes. The bill was drafted after 12-year-old McKenna Ahrenholz wrote lawmakers about her negative experiences with the state's child protection system. The bill was approved unanimously.

Student visit

I was pleased to address seniors from Sauk Rapids-Rice High School this week. Plenty of great questions were asked from the students about current affairs and the legislative process.

If you know of anyone who would like to receive future email updates, forward this email to them and have them sign up [here](#). Also, if you ever have any questions, comments, or concerns regarding any issue related to state government, please feel free to contact me at either 651-296-7808 or rep.tim.odriscoll@house.mn.
Sincerely,
Tim

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Dear Neighbors,

Here is an update with the latest news from the Capitol.

Pro-Life Legislation Passes House

On Monday, the House passed two, bipartisan pro-life bills that stand up for taxpayers and the health and safety of women. Both pro-life bills gained support from both House Republicans and Democrats, and are also top priorities of MCCL (Minnesota Citizens Concerned for Life).

The first bill, House File 809, would allow Minnesota to join 33 other states and the federal government by prohibiting taxpayer funding for abortion, except in certain circumstances. Many Minnesotans in our area and across the state do not want their tax dollars to go toward abortion which is why this legislation is so important.

The other bill, House File 812, protects the health and safety of women by requiring that any abortion facility that performs ten or more abortions per month be licensed by the Minnesota Department of Health. It would also hold these facilities to the standards of their own industry including Planned Parenthood and the National Abortion Federation, ensuring that women are not exposed to unsafe or unsanitary conditions.

House File 985

On Thursday, the House passed my bill which protects private property owners and stops the expansion of trespasser rights, codifying previous court rulings. In short, this bill is about protecting property owners from frivolous lawsuits by trespassers on private property.

The bill has support from a number of groups including the Farm Bureau, Farmers' Union, AgriGrowth, as well as trade associations, chambers and businesses across the state. Similar legislation has passed in 26 states, including every state bordering Minnesota.

This is a commonsense bill, and I am hopeful we can get it signed into law this year.

Budget Negotiations

Last month, Governor Dayton wrote a letter requesting that he and the Legislature "set joint conference committee targets no later than Friday, April 28, 2017." The House agreed to those terms, and requested that Governor Dayton, his administration and his commissioners work with the Legislature to negotiate a compromise budget in an open and transparent conference committee process.

Unfortunately, this week the governor chose to backtrack on that agreement, telling his commissioners they are unable to negotiate with us at this time and removing himself from the budget negotiating

process. With less than a month to go before adjournment, I am disappointed and frustrated that we are not all working together at this point to solve problems and pass a comprehensive budget that best serves the people of our state. In an effort to keep moving forward toward a final compromise, House and Senate Republicans released their own set of joint targets earlier today so conference committees can continue their work.

These kinds of actions are exactly why folks in Northwest Minnesota are tired of politics as usual, and I am hoping he will join the Legislature soon in good-faith negotiations. I will keep you posted.

Buffers

I am disappointed that Governor Dayton remarked this week that [he will not negotiate on buffers](#), refusing to listen to voices and disrespecting the people in Greater Minnesota. Rural folks impacted by this new law are rightly asking for clarification and more time to meet these requirements.

I talked to the Fargo newspaper this week as did farmers and other folks in rural Minnesota who shared some of their concerns about buffers. You can read the story [here](#).

Follow me on Facebook!

To stay up-to-date on what's happening at your State Capitol, feel free to "like" my Facebook page: www.facebook.com/RepDanFabian.

My door is always open to the needs and priorities of our area. Please feel free to let me know if I can be of assistance to you and your family. I am here to serve you!

Dan

*****Encourage your neighbors and friends to sign up for my email updates at www.house.mn/01A***



Minnesota House of Representatives

Rep. Tony Cornish 23B - Legislative Update

News Items



Hello from St. Paul,

While budget negotiations in all areas of state government are happening between the Minnesota House and Senate, one key participant has so far refused to enter the discussion: Governor Dayton.

As co-chair of a joint House/Senate conference committee on public safety spending, I can tell you this is troublesome.

We were led to believe that the governor wanted to enjoin in targets before May 1, so we approved our spending bills prior to Easter so we could make this happen. Now he's changed his mind and moved the goalposts once again.

House and Senate conferees were also led to believe that the governor's commissioners could negotiate on his behalf. We recently learned that is not the case. In areas as important as public safety, judiciary and homeland security, we're talking about core functions of government. It puts us in a really tough spot if they refuse to share their priorities as we get closer to the end of session.

We want to send Governor Dayton bills he will sign, and the only way that can happen is if he tells us what he wants. I hope he joins us at the negotiating table very soon.

Have a good weekend,
Tony

[RELEASE: Minnesota House approves Public Safety finance bill](#) - (Posted: 2017-04-03)
[REP. CORNISH UNVEILS PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE BILL](#) - (Posted: 2017-03-23)
[REP. CORNISH: REINSURANCE BILL COULD LOWER HEALTH INSURANCE PREMIUMS BY 18 PERCENT](#) - (Posted: 2017-03-16)

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[Public Safety and Security Policy and Finance](#)
[Ways and Means](#)

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Occupation: Retired 32-year peace officer

Business:

Education: Garden City High School

Elected: 2002

Term: 8th

Family: Single

* Prefers interim mail at this address.



Rep. Bud Nornes 08A - Legislative Update

News Items



Dear Neighbor,

Congratulations to all those who made the 21st annual "Walk for Glendalough" such a success on Saturday. The park had a record day, raising more than \$11,000 for park improvements. When you take into account matching contributions, this event has now surpassed \$300,000 in total proceeds generated over its 21-year history. The volunteers who make this event possible deserve major credit for their efforts.

As for legislative news, the Legislature is now in its final full month before adjournment is scheduled. The aggressive deadline for bills that was set this session has us about three weeks ahead of the typical pace as we work to tie down the loose ends on omnibus finance bills. It is disappointing the governor has chosen to be disengaged from the conference committee process this week.

It would be helpful if the governor and his staff would become more involved so we can reach an overall agreement between the House, Senate and his office before bills are sent to him for enactment. For example, the House put forward a tax bill with \$1.35 billion in relief for senior citizens, small businesses, college grads with student debt, farmers and others. It would be good to know now if he's on board with the package of tax relief we are proposing or, if not, what can be done to get his signature.

My main responsibility on budget bills is to put together the finance package related to higher education. This has not been a controversial portion of the budget in previous years and I intend to keep it that way this time around.

Other legislation I have authored with local ties remains up for possible enactment this year. This includes one bill to facilitate the tax referendum Fergus Falls residents approved for the library and another to renew funds for repurposing the regional treatment center.

More details will be provided as issues evolve at the Capitol. Meantime, your correspondence always is welcome.

Sincerely,

Bud

[Glendalough event a success: the latest on state budget work](#) - (Posted: 2017-04-28)
[Walk for Glendalough Saturday and an update from the Capitol](#) - (Posted: 2017-04-21)
[Busy week of area meetings](#) - (Posted: 2017-04-13)

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Elected: 1996

Term: 11th

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