

# THE KREITLOW REPORT

## STATE SENATOR PAT KREITLOW



January 2010



Greetings Friends,

Every couple weeks, I send out a legislative update to let people know what I'm working on and hopefully get their feedback on the issues that are being discussed in our community and the legislature.

If you are interested in signing up for this update, or if you'd like to stop receiving it, please contact my office.

Thanks for reading,

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## Legislative Update

The Senate was in session twice this week and I am proud to report that my colleagues joined me in passing several important pieces of legislation that I authored or co-sponsored.

Foremost among our successes this week was the passage of Senate Bill 409, the C.O.R.E. Jobs Act, which I have mentioned several times in this space. This legislation leverages the success of several proven state programs, including *Accelerate Wisconsin*, The Wisconsin Development Fund, and Angel Investment Tax Credits, to encourage investment in family supporting jobs. In addition, this bill includes a plan to provide tax incentives for businesses that help pay their workers' tuition for skills that help a business improve its products and systems and be more competitive. The plan also includes increased support for public-private research partnerships between small businesses and UW campuses like Eau Claire and Stout. I have met with entrepreneurs from the Chippewa Valley and around the state who support this proposal and recognize how the incentives in the CORE Jobs Act will help put our state back on the path to recovery, and I was proud to see that my Senate colleagues joined me in passing this bi-partisan bill out of the Senate.

The Senate also met earlier this week and two other bills that I authored were passed with bi-partisan support. First was Senate Bill 43, a bill that requires any special interest group that spends money in a political campaign in Wisconsin to disclose who their donors are and how much they've donated. Similar legislation was also passed by the State Senate last year, and this is the second major campaign which was signed into law last fall.

A fundamental belief in our democracy is that the public has a right to know where the money funding political campaigns is coming from, and that's why every single candidate for public office has to disclose who their donors are and how much they've donated. Issue ads are some of the sleaziest, most blatantly dishonest ads in every campaign, and this bill closes a gaping loophole in campaign finance law that has allowed special interest groups to avoid that public disclosure and deny voters the chance to know who was really behind these ads. It's no surprise that some special interest groups are playing fast and loose with the facts again, this time in their effort to keep their sordid activities out of the public's view, but this bill makes yet another step towards cleaning up elections in Wisconsin.



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## Useful Contact Information

### State Agencies and Departments

Aging & Long Term Care:  
1-800-242-1060

Attorney General: 608-266-1221

Business Help Line: 1-800-435-7287

Consumer Protection Hotline:  
1-800-422-7128

Commerce: 608-266-1018

Employment Relations:  
608-266-1731

Farm Hotline: 1-800-942-2474

Governor: 608-266-1212

Health & Family Services:  
608-266-9622

Housing Loans, Low Interest:  
1-800-334-6873

Workforce Development:  
608-266-3131

Natural Resources: 608-266-2621

Public Instruction: 608-266-3390

Public Service Commission:  
608-266-2001

Revenue: 608-266-2486

Road Conditions/Detours:  
1-800-762-3947

Tax Refund Information:  
608-266-8100

Transportation: 608-266-1466

Unemployment Insurance:  
1-800-494-4944

### Federal Toll-Free

Census Bureau: 1-800-233-6136

Internal Revenue Service:  
1-800-829-4477

Peace Corps: 1-800-424-8580

Social Security Administration:  
1-800-772-1213

US Veterans Benefits:  
1-800-827-1000

### Federal Legislators

Sen. Herbert Kohl: 202-224-5653,  
715-832-8424

Sen. Russ Feingold: 202-224-5323,  
608-828-1200

Rep. Dave Obey: 202-225-3365,  
715-842-5606

Rep. Ron Kind: 202-225-5506,  
715-831-9214

## Session Update Continued

The Senate also passed Senate Bill 325, legislation that adds a parental notification requirement to sex offender chaperone arrangements. These arrangements are part of the Department of Corrections monitoring program for sex offenders, helping to ensure that they abide by the terms of their release, but currently the law does not require a non-custodial parent to be notified if the other parent intends to become a sex offender chaperone.

This legislation does not change the terms of chaperone agreements beyond this notification, and simply ensures that parents have the full information they need to make decisions to protect the safety of their children. We need to do everything we can to make sure that parents are given all the information they need to protect their children, and this bill adds a simple requirement to this successful program to ensure that parents are well informed about their children's safety.

## Haiti Relief

The recent natural disaster in Haiti presents Americans with the opportunity to demonstrate their generosity and give support to the Haitian people. However, it is equally as important to give wisely and prevent fraudulent organizations from taking advantage of your kindheartedness.

In order to prevent scams, donate to established, trustworthy organizations such as the American Red Cross, UNICEF, World Vision, or other sponsored charitable efforts with which you are familiar. Also, be wary of both electronic solicitations such as text and e-mail and cash donations. Scammers use these methods to generate small expenses from potential victims while also reaching large numbers with little cost incurred to the scam artist. Further, do not provide any personal information that should not normally be require, such as social security, bank account, or credit card numbers.



These warnings are not to discourage donations, but to inform you on how to take the necessary precautions before donating to your desired charity. More information and warning from DATCP can be found at

<http://www.wispolitics.com/index.iml?Article=182065>