



TARA MACK

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

LEGISLATIVE REPORT

FAMILY BUDGETS AHEAD OF THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET

A LETTER FROM REP. MACK

DEAR NEIGHBOR,

Thank you for your support over the past two years. Representing the people of Apple Valley and Burnsville is an honor and a privilege. Although we may disagree on some issues, we are united by pride in our community and a desire for a strong Minnesota.

As a lifelong resident of the district, I am proud that our community is home to some of the best schools in the state. We are on the cutting edge of transit systems in the metro area. Renovations to Cedar Avenue, carpool lanes along 35-W and a brand new transit station in Apple Valley are just a few of the ways our community is preparing to move people in the upcoming years.

We retain a positive outlook even though recent economic difficulties have affected our district. Rallying around each other, we continue to push development and job creation forward. We must continue to do everything we can to make Apple Valley and Burnsville an attractive place for people and businesses. A stronger Minnesota starts with us.

It has been a privilege serving the community where I was raised. Thank you for allowing me to represent you in St. Paul. Together we can make Apple Valley and Burnsville the envy of the state.

SINCERELY,



MACK PUSHES FOR FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

Working toward long-term solutions not quick fixes

State Representative Tara Mack followed through on her promises to support fiscal responsibility and put Minnesota families first. Throughout the 2010 legislative session Mack voted to set priorities and stop wasteful spending. She focused her efforts on shoring up Minnesota's fiscal future while balancing the short-term deficit.

"Focusing on one budget at a time only leads to more deficits," said Mack. "Minnesotans deserve more. Government cannot continue relying on one-time fixes and accounting gimmicks. We need to implement real reforms to spend the money we have more wisely. The budgets of Minnesota families must come first."

Mack was a strong advocate for the families and businesses of Apple Valley and Burnsville during her first term. "Families and businesses in my district, and throughout Minnesota, are tightening their belts," she said. "They are learning



to live with what they have, and it's time government learned to do the same."

Mack supported a number of reform measures which would bring fiscal responsibility and stability to government spending. These include a Sunset Commission to reform or end ineffective programs, budgeting in priority order and zero-based budgeting. "The economic downturn brought the reality of years of unsustainable state spending to the forefront," said Mack. "These reform ideas would lead to economic

recovery. By eliminating wasteful and duplicative spending, we can prevent deficits in the future."

Mack stood by her promises, and her constituents, through the entire session – right up to the last vote. Although the final bill balanced the budget without raising taxes, it contained no priorities or reforms. "The budget solution failed to address our long-term budget issues," said Mack. "This was another one-time fix which only kicks the can down the road to the next legislature. We cannot continue to put off the tough decisions that our constituents elected us to make."

"The priorities of the people of Apple Valley and Burnsville are my priorities as well," Mack said. "With high unemployment, perpetual deficits and runaway spending, I have worked to put the family budget ahead of the government budget. Together we can implement the reforms necessary to keep it there!"

CONNECT WITH REP. MACK ONLINE



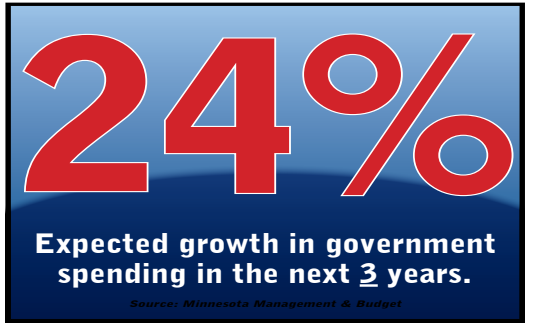
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Rep. Mack with Gov. Pawlenty at a local Small Business Listening Session



GROW THE PRIVATE SECTOR, NOT THE GOVERNMENT

Working to get Minnesotans back to work was one of the main themes of the 2010 legislative session. Representative Tara Mack was on the forefront of this effort by supporting legislation to promote private-sector job creation. “True economic recovery will come from Minnesotans who put their ingenuity to work,” Mack said.

The main piece of job-creation legislation Mack pushed created an Angel Investment tax credit. This encourages investment in start-up businesses and expands the research and development credits to help businesses develop.

“This is a great way to grow the private sector job market,” Mack said. “By providing investment incentives, we are promoting policies for long-term growth. This bill

will help create, and keep, jobs in Apple Valley and Burnsville.”

Mack also actively worked to ease the burdens placed on small businesses in Minnesota. The state currently has the 7th worst climate for businesses, and 8th worst climate for entrepreneurs, in the country. Since small businesses drive job growth, Mack believes it is critically important to make it easier for them to start and expand.

“We need to put money back in the pockets of our small business owners. Lessening the tax and regulatory burdens on our job providers will allow them to increase wages, retain an employee or hire a new one,” she said. “This will also encourage businesses to move to, and stay in, Minnesota rather than leave for a state more friendly to them.”

“During the last two years, I have searched out the opinions of small business owners in my community to better understand the challenges they are facing,” Mack said. “One of the things I heard over and over was that we need to reduce government spending, and keep taxes low, so job-creators can invest more money back into their business. This allows them to expand and hire more workers.”

Mack recognizes the important role small businesses play in her district. “Small businesses are the lifeblood of Apple Valley and Burnsville,” said Mack. “They provide jobs, sponsor events and help keep our community one of the best places to live. Keeping them strong keeps our community strong.”

MACK TALKS REFORM: HEALTH CARE & EDUCATION

Health Care

General Assistance Medical Care reform was a major issue during the 2010 session. The program provides health care to poor, single adults but was scheduled to end after Gov. Pawlenty unallotted funding last year. The program was growing at unsustainable rates and was at risk of bankrupting our state. Per person costs were up 35 percent in the last year alone, and the program was projected to cost nearly \$1 billion next biennium.

My colleagues and I were able to work together to come up with a nation-leading reform that saves taxpayers more than \$700 million while still preserving coverage for those who need it. Real reform is possible when you focus on the people rather than preserving a program.

As a part of the budget compromise, the majority party pushed strongly to abandon the GAMC agreement and enroll in the new federal health legislation early, but we were able to protect against this. The move would cost Minnesotans hundreds of millions

of dollars and give the federal government control over our health programs. It will be left up to the next governor whether to enroll early or not.

Education

Minnesota has always been a national leader in education, but we will not remain so by maintaining the status quo. Our educational system was set up decades ago, and the challenges facing are children in 1950 are much different from the challenges they face today. We need to modernize our system and enact bold reforms to reduce the achievement gap and equip our children to succeed in the 21st Century economy.

Education shouldn’t be controlled by unions or politicians. We need to shift the focus to the local level, by listening directly to teachers and by empowering parents and school districts in the decision-making process. I know the parents in Apple Valley and Burnsville know what is best for their kids, and we must craft legislation that recognizes this.

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RETHINKING THE STATUS QUO: CREATING A 21ST CENTURY GOVERNMENT



“Government cannot continue relying on one-time fixes and accounting gimmicks. We need to implement real reforms to spend the money we have more wisely. The budgets of Minnesota families must come first.”

- Rep. Tara Mack

Rep. Tara Mack for Government Reform

In 2010, Rep. Tara Mack supported numerous reforms to turn-around reckless spending and re-align government to economic reality. These forward-thinking reforms did not pass this session, but she will continue to lead for the real reform and positive results Minnesota citizens deserve.

15x15 Initiative



Reduce the size and cost of the state workforce 15% by 2015

Zero-Based Budgeting



Prioritize and justify all government expenditures

HHS Reform



Increase competition, improve accountability, promote value

Sunset Commission



Review and retire unnecessary state operations

Debt Accountability



Require return on investment for all government projects

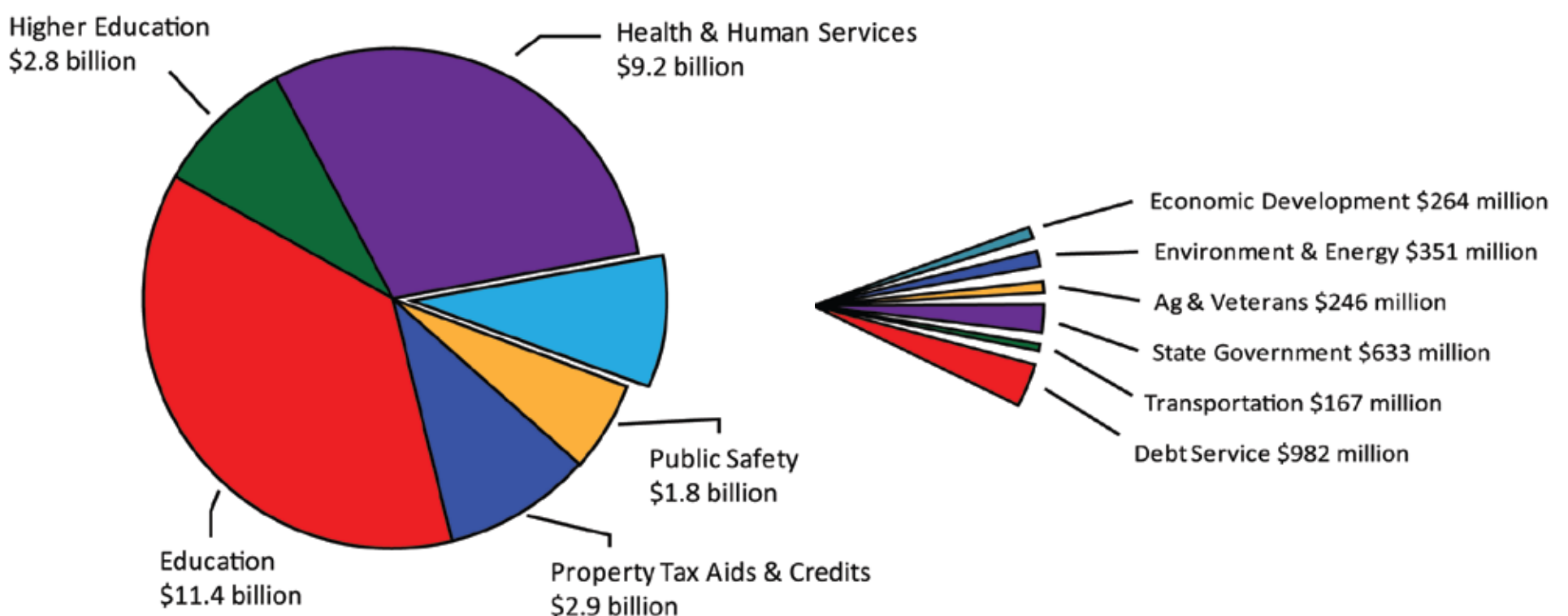
Technology Tools



Improve efficiency, identify and eliminate fraud and abuse

STATE SPENDING BREAKDOWN

TOTAL: \$30.7 BILLION





About Tara:

Tara Mack is a lifelong resident of Burnsville and Apple Valley. She grew up going to Apple Valley schools and has been involved in the community throughout her life. Tara went on to graduate from the University of Minnesota with a degree in Political Science and Global Studies.

Tara and her husband Justin live in Apple Valley where her husband is a pastor at River Valley Church.

Tara was first elected to represent District 37A in 2008. She enjoys serving on the Burnsville YMCA Board and being a member of the Apple Valley Rotary and both the Apple Valley and Burnsville Chamber of Commerce. She also serves on the Minnesota Autism Task Force and the K-12 Education Mandate Reduction working group. Tara is proud to represent the community where she grew up and is committed to its continued excellence.



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