

STATE SENATOR GARY DAHMS



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E-Newsletter

January 11, 2019

SENATOR GARY DAHMS, COLLEAGUES ANNOUNCE 2019 SESSION PRIORITIES

Priorities focus on Greater Minnesota families

On Tuesday, Minnesota Senate Republicans unveiled an agenda that puts families at the top of the priority list for the 2019 session. Helping families with the cost and availability of childcare and health care with an emphasis on mental health care is the focus of Senate files one through three. Finding and eliminating waste and fraud in state government and aligning the tax code with the federal government round out the first five bills introduced in the Senate.

“The first bills of the legislative session are focused on making life easier for Minnesota families,” said Senator Gary Dahms (R – Redwood Falls). “Minnesotans are struggling to afford child care and health care. They want better mental health resources and are concerned about government transparency and accountability.”

Senate File 1: Mental health – Senate Republicans promise a stronger legislative response to the growing problem families are facing regarding mental health, especially in our schools and on the farm.

Senate File 2: Childcare – Senate Republicans held interim hearings around the state on the costs and availability of childcare and will propose legislation to help families based on this public feedback.

Senate File 3: Healthcare costs – Senate Republicans will build upon their success lowering health insurance premiums by offering new proposals on transparent health care billing and guaranteeing coverage for preexisting conditions.

Senate File 4: Government accountability – Senate Republicans will have several proposals to hold government more accountable and stop wasting money in the areas of childcare fraud, MNLARS, and other statewide IT failures.

Senate File 5: Tax conformity – Senate Republicans will use the opportunity of conforming to the new federal tax law to simplify the tax code and reduce taxes for Minnesota families and businesses.

Senate Republicans will roll out a more detailed and robust legislative agenda for 2019 after the February budget forecast.

“As we put together a responsible state budget, we’ll do it in a way that confronts the challenges facing Minnesota families,” continued Senator Dahms. “The goal is to meet the needs of all Minnesotans and particularly those in Greater Minnesota.”

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SENATOR DAHMS ANNOUNCES COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS

The Senate Committee structure has changed slightly from the last biennium. The Aging and Long-term Care Policy Committee was reorganized into the new Family and Aging Committee.

The E-12 Education Policy and the E-12 Finance Committee are now one committee. Senator Dahms was a member of both committees and was Vice-Chair of E-12 Finance. He continues his role as Vice-Chair of the new E-12 Finance and Policy Committee.

With the combining of the E-12 Education committees, Senator Dahms was able to become a member of the Agriculture, Rural Development, and Housing Policy Committee. He continues to serve on the Capital Investment Committee and the Rules Committee. Senator Dahms also maintains his chairmanship of the Commerce and Consumer Protection Finance and Policy Committee.



Committee Structure



U OF M EXTENSION ANNOUNCES WORKSHOP

The University of Minnesota Extension has announced a Farm Transition and Estate Planning Workshop for Wednesday, January 16. This workshop will feature information on farm goal setting, family communications, business structures, mechanisms for inheritance and transition, estate taxes, and other basic concepts such as retirement planning.

The workshop is free, but space is limited. Click [here](#) for more information and to register. If you need assistance with registration, please contact Kathy Eckwright at 507-389-6972 or eckwr001@umn.edu.

This project is a partnership of Minnesota State College and Universities and UMN Extension. Funding support comes from the Minnesota Department of Agriculture.

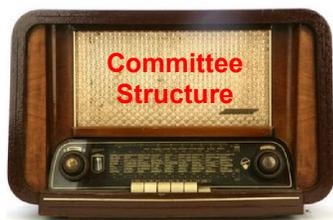
UPDATE ON NITROGEN FERTILIZER RULE

In a recent court order, an administrative law judge upheld the legislature's authority to delay implementation of the 'Nitrogen Fertilizer Rule', a proposed rule from Governor Mark Dayton's administration to reduce nitrate levels in groundwater across Minnesota.

Under the proposed rule, restrictions would be placed on soil applications in certain areas of the state based on soil types. Last year, the legislature invoked its authority under the law to delay the rule's implementation until after the conclusion of the 2019 legislative session. The judge agreed the legislature was within its authority.

The agricultural industry is already applying many points of the rule in their best management practices.

THANK YOU FOR VISITING US AT THE CAPITOL



New Ulm Chamber with Representative Paul Torkelson (R – Hanska)