



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Jackie Walorski

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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What important issues are facing our state today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at h21@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h21, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

Although the budget is a bipartisan compromise, with all 48 House Republicans voting for it, House Republican principles remained an important influence. It is a success, I believe, because:

- It contains no general tax increases.
- It maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- It uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

Gov. Mitch Daniels, along with House and Senate Republicans, outlined these standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget fully funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at growing public schools.
- The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding was authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University South Bend, Purdue University North Central, and Purdue University Calumet. In addition, construction just recently began on a new Ivy Tech campus in Elkhart.
- The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Walorski discusses issues on the House floor with Rep. Craig Fry.



Rep. Walorski addresses the House of Representatives during legislative debate.

Expanded Breast and Cervical Cancer Screenings

I supported an important measure that increases the number of providers of Medicaid-covered screenings for cervical and breast cancer treatments. Breast cancer is among the most frequently diagnosed cancers in the country, and it kills almost 1,000 Hoosiers annually. The death rate for cervical cancer is increasing.

Silver Alerts

I supported legislation that creates a Silver Alert system to alert law enforcement and the public when an endangered adult is missing, similar to the Amber Alert system for children. When an endangered adult, such as an Alzheimer's patient, wanders from a residence, law-enforcement agencies have the authority to alert local media.

Honoring our Hoosier Heroes

I co-sponsored an important measure which honors Hoosier heroes who have sacrificed so much for us. Senate Enrolled Act 39 grants all Hoosier Purple Heart recipients free tuition to state colleges and universities. Previous law provided tuition to those who received the Purple Heart after Sept. 10, 2001, and the children of all Purple Heart recipients.

Energy Efficiency at the Pump

School corporations and universities may now participate in Indiana's E85 Fuel Station Grant Program. This encourages the expansion of the state's biofuel industry, producing homegrown energy that reduces our dependence on foreign oil. It also helps the environment through the use of cleaner-burning fuel.



Jackie Walorski

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Important Contact Information for Representative Jackie Walorski

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