



Thursday, Jan. 21, 2010

With the end of the first month of 2010 in sight, I want to take this opportunity to take a quick look back on my first year as your State Representative and the work I've been doing on behalf of our families here in Wayne County.

A major highlight of 2009 was meeting with so many of our residents at local events as well as visitors at my Lansing office. In addition, I held 25 coffee hours, 12 community forums and visited 14 area schools.

It has been a pleasure serving as the voice of our community at the Capitol, and I will continue the fight to create jobs and get Michigan's economy back on track.

Reforms Position State for \$400 Million in Education Dollars

In December, I voted for a plan that will [give Michigan an edge in qualifying for up to \\$400 million in education funding](#) through the federal "Race to the Top" program. As a member of the House Education Committee, I know that a top-notch education is vital for our kids to compete in the 21st century global economy. This plan, which was signed into law earlier this month, will put our state in a better position to land this much-needed funding to help provide Michigan's kids with the opportunity to succeed in life and in the workplace.

Smoking Ban Takes Effect May 1

My colleagues and I recently helped pass a plan to [ban smoking in most indoor places, including bars and restaurants](#). The plan, which was signed into law last month and takes effect May 1, will safeguard Michigan's families from exposure to the life-threatening illnesses caused by smoking and drastically reduce the amount of smoke that our kids are exposed to.

Foreclosure Lifeline

I helped pass a plan into law to help fight the rising number of home foreclosures in Michigan by providing a 90-day lifeline for homeowners at risk of losing their home to foreclosure. I voted for this plan when it passed the House in May because foreclosures not only devastate families, they also tear at the fabric of our communities and businesses.

To learn how to get free help through the new program, visit my [Web site](#).

Advanced Batteries

Last year, I threw my support behind legislation expanding Michigan's first-in-the-nation incentives for companies involved in advanced battery manufacturing to nearly \$800 million. So far, these incentives have resulted in more than \$1 billion in investments committed by several world-class advanced battery

companies that plan to create more than 6,600 jobs in Michigan.

In addition, these ground-breaking incentives also helped pave the way for General Motors to build its new Brownstown Township facility to manufacture lithium-ion battery packs for its new Chevrolet Volt and other extended-range electric vehicles.

Legislative Update

For more information on recent legislation, click [here](#).

To learn more about the state's budget process, visit www.michigan.gov/budget, or find enacted budgets by subject at www.house.mi.gov/hfa/bill_status.asp.

Coffee Hours on Feb. 8 in Flat Rock and Woodhaven

Please join me at my next coffee hours on **Monday, Feb. 8**, at the following times and locations:

- **9:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Flat Rock Family Cafe, 27517 Telegraph Road in Flat Rock**
- **5 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Christoff's Family Restaurant, 22900 Allen Road in Woodhaven**

I hold regular coffee hours to meet with residents and listen to their concerns and ideas. If your business is interested in hosting a coffee hour, please call my office toll-free at (866) 725-2929, or e-mail me at DebKennedy@house.mi.gov.

Contact me

If you ever have any questions, concerns or ideas, I would love to hear from you. You can call me toll-free at (866) 725-2929, e-mail me at DebKennedy@house.mi.gov or send mail to P.O. Box 30014, Lansing, MI, 48909. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

