



Dear Neighbor,

Thanks for letting me serve you and the rest of District 19 this year in the Minnesota Senate. I'm proud to represent our area, and grateful too. This brochure is to let you know what happened this legislative session (and what didn't happen).

Overall, the session was a success. The biggest news was that we reached a bipartisan agreement on the state's two-year budget, totaling about \$48 billion. Unlike the federal government, Minnesota law requires a balanced state budget. This means there are more than a few tough decisions and the budget represents true compromise.

Our district did pretty well in terms of the bills regarding agriculture, human services, taxes, and education. We didn't pass any of the proposed new transportation funding and we failed to pass a bonding bill. I will stay committed on working towards a stable source of long-term funding for roads, bridges, and transit.

I love serving all of you in the Senate, but it's no secret that after almost five months in St. Paul I am glad to be able to move back home to North Mankato. Thanks again for the opportunity, and I hope to see you around.

Nick

Senator Nick Frentz Successes

"Bailey's Bill" (HF85): After 3 years of work on this legislation (named for a young girl in Nicollet who has adrenal insufficiency), we finally saw it pass and receive the Governor's signature. This bill will allow EMT's and paramedics to administer medication for someone with rare but life-threatening medical conditions.

Clean Energy First (SF2431): I was proud to be chief-author the Governor's Clean Energy First bill. This bill promotes renewable energy, seeks efficiency optimization, and will reduce carbon emissions. It did not get a hearing in the Senate this session but remains a top priority for clean energy advocates statewide, Gov. Walz, and me

North Mankato Food and Beverage Sales Tax (SF438): At the request of North Mankato city officials, I authored legislation to approve the sales tax in North Mankato, which was included in the final tax bill. The sales tax increase will help fund projects in the community

GreenSeam Funding (SF0694): This bill appropriated money for GreenSeam through Greater Mankato Growth and I was a proud Chief Author. GreenSeam promotes our goal of Southern Minnesota being a national center of agribusiness. Greater Mankato Growth was instrumental in this effort.

Minnesota Security Hospital: In the Health and Human Services bill, \$16 million was allocated in continuation funding for our current FTEs at the Minnesota Security Hospital in Saint Peter. In addition, this funding will support the new Community Preparation Services program and reintegration services.

Public Safety: I worked extensively with fire fighters, local law enforcement, and the MN State Patrol to promote safety, and to help us recruit and retain the next generation of Minnesotans who protect us all. My work on the Pension Commission was also important for these issues.

Here to Serve



Please contact my office if you want to share ideas, questions, or concerns. We are here to help.

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**State Senator
Nick Frentz**

**2019
CAPITOL
REPORT**

Senator Nick Frentz

How I voted on Budget Bills and Why:

Tax Bill: Voted YES

SF0005 - First of all, we owed it to Minnesota to get tax conformity after failing to do so last year. We also included a quarter percent tax cut for our middle class, the first individual tax rate cut in almost two decades. Also, we saw a school referendum equalization aid increase that will hopefully benefit our rural communities. On the negative side, I believed it was bad budgeting to take almost \$500 million from our state's reserves, and a loophole for large international corporations that store billions in overseas accounts was closed at the federal level, but not in our Minnesota bill.

Agriculture, Rural Development, and Housing: Voted YES

SF1859 - I was happy to support the Agriculture Omnibus bill. Overall it was good for farmers and rural development. It included my bill (SF0694) to provide funding for GreenSeam, which is based in Mankato and seeks to promote ag across Southern MN. It also included \$40 million for border-to-border broadband, which is so important to our rural communities. Also included was AGRI programs like Good Food Access and Farm to School legislation, which will decrease hunger among our most vulnerable students. This Housing portion of this bill saw modest investments in affordable housing, like providing additional money for the Housing Challenge Program, Family Homeless Prevention Grant, and Homework Starts at Home.

Health and Human Services Bill: Voted YES

SF2452 - My yes vote was based in part on the \$16.2 million staff funding for our workers at the St Peter Regional Treatment Center, which was badly needed. The Provider Tax, which helps 1.2 million Minnesotans get health care, in particular our lower-income families, was extended. The bill also improves access to health care for people with disabilities, and makes investments in the state's mental health system. Another key measure in the HHS bill is a \$100 monthly increase in the Minnesota Family Investment Program (MFIP) - the first increase for the program since 1986. New fees established on opiate manufactures will benefit our communities sending a clear message that manufactures need to share in the responsibility of the products they make.

Legacy Bill: Voted YES

SF0836 - I was happy to see funding for children's museums statewide, which will directly benefit the Mankato based Children's Museum of Southern MN. Also, the Forever Green Initiative (SF0134) was funded at \$4.3 million; I was proud to be a co-author of this bill. Forever Green is crucial for creating a sustainable and healthy farming system in our state.

Education E-12: Voted YES

SF0007 - Supporting education, including our students, staff, administration, and capital needs like remains a top priority. This bill provided an additional \$553 million over base funding to Minnesota's schools, and I like the signal that send to our kids. We want the best learning environment and this bill helps provide them that.

What didn't pass this session:

Long-Term Transportation Funding: Minnesota is at a critical point. Our state is currently rated at a D+ for roads and a C- for bridges, and if we continue to fund our infrastructure the way we are, they are bound to get worse. I still support a gas tax because it is constitutionally dedicated to fund our roads and bridges.

Bonding bill: We have a few projects we'd like to see in the next bonding bill. Some of those projects include: The Phase II expansion (SF2123) at the MN Security Hospital in Saint Peter, renovations to Caswell Park (SF2619), and constructing improvements that reduce erosion and improve water quality along the Minnesota River in Mankato (SF1902). We are hopeful to pass a bonding bill in 2020.

Buffer Strip Tax Credit: I have repeatedly advocated for tax relief for farmers who took land out of production to comply with our buffer strip law. Farmers did what we asked them to in the name of clean water, and it's time that we stopped taxing that land as if it is still growing crops. I will continue to advocate for this issue.



Sen. Nick Frentz giving a tour to local students.



Chief-Authored Clean Energy First

I was proud to chief-author the Governor's Clean Energy First bill, committed to making Minnesota carbon free by 2050. Our state is at it's best when we set strong goals and commit to them. With the shrinking costs of wind and solar, it is time for Minnesota to lead and I will continue to advocate for this legislation.

Alec Smith Insulin Act (SF472): The program established would provide insulin for those facing a medical emergency. The costs of insulin have skyrocketed, becoming deadly to some diabetics who can't afford this. This should not be a partisan issue.

Paid Family and Medical Leave (SF1060): As a co-author of the Paid Family and Medical leave bill, I believe this legislation is important for our working families across the state, regardless of income or geographic location. Our workforce is best served when fully-supported, at home and work. The bill did not receive a hearing this year in the Minnesota Senate and will continue to push for it in 2020.