



WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Jennifer Shilling

95TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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SHILLING, ROBSON ANNOUNCE HOPE TAX RELIEF PACKAGE

Homeowner's Property Exemption will save area families hundreds of dollars each year

MADISON – State Representative Jennifer Shilling (D-La Crosse) and Senate Democratic Leader Judy Robson (D-Beloit) today unveiled a new tax relief package targeted to property owners and renters in Wisconsin. The proposal, called the *Homeowners Property Exemption (HOPE)*, will save Coulee Region taxpayers more than \$600 annually.

“Governor Doyle’s Responsible Tax Freeze has made great strides in controlling skyrocketing property taxes in Wisconsin,” Shilling said. “The Homeowners Property Exemption is the next step in providing meaningful, long-term tax relief across the state.”

The HOPE credit will exempt up to \$60,000 of a home’s value from taxation. In La Crosse, tax bills would see a \$691 reduction on average. Onalaska, West Salem, and Holmen would average \$602 in savings per household. The proposal also increases the Rent Credit from 12 to 18 percent, providing tax relief to renters as well.

“Homeowners and renters are bearing an increasingly disproportionate share of the tax burden in our state,” Shilling said. “The HOPE Credit restores a fairer balance, giving Wisconsin residents a break for a change.”

In 1971, taxes on homes accounted for only 50 percent of all property taxes in Wisconsin. Today, the share is more than 69 percent. In that same time, corporate income taxes have dropped from 14 percent of general tax revenue down to only six percent. In fact, reports showed that over 70 Wisconsin corporations paid nothing in state taxes between 2001 and 2003.

“Over the past 30 years, corporations and special interests have received tax break after tax break and the working families and seniors have had to pick up the slack,” Shilling said. “No wonder taxes are so high while our cities and school districts are going broke.”

A Department of Revenue study revealed hundreds of corporate tax loopholes that could provide the state with over \$3 billion in additional income if closed. Removing tax exemptions on items like luxury skyboxes and shutting down out of state tax shelters would secure more than enough funding to provide tax relief through the HOPE Credit.

“Working families can’t afford to hire tassel-toed lobbyists to push for tax breaks like the special interests can. It’s about time we provided Wisconsin residents with real, long-term tax relief,” Shilling concluded. “HOPE is simple. HOPE is necessary. And HOPE is long overdue.”

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