

State of Wisconsin



GARY R. GEORGE
SENATOR

For Immediate Release: June 19, 2003

Contact the Office of Senator Gary R. George: Calvin Eleby, Jr., 608-266-2500

Senator Gary R. George Votes in Support of the Budget

Madison . . . Today, Senator Gary R. George, (D)- Milwaukee, Senator for the 6th Senate District, voted to support the passage of the State budget in the Senate. That vote was based upon additions to the budget that were added to earn his vote.

The support for initiatives in his community include funding for anti-gambling initiatives, \$1 million for a Faith-Based initiative to be distributed to the General State Baptist Ministers Alliance, Wisconsin Baptist Ministers Alliance, Church of God In Christ Ministers Alliance and the Apostolic Faith Ministers Alliance to assist them in creating job opportunities and provide counseling to families who have been impacted by gun violence. In addition, Senator George obtained the support for the creation of a Uniform Minority Business Certification Program that would allow minority businesses to complete just one application and process to do business with the State and all local units of governments.

Senator George also secured a \$1.5 million budgetary change that would allow H.R. Academy Youth and Family Center, operated by Bishop Sedgwick Daniels and the Holy Redeemer Church of God in Christ in Milwaukee, to go forward with a \$5 million school project.

Senator George sought \$1.5 million in funding each year to support the Social Development Commission in creating summer jobs programs and \$1 million to support V. E. Carter Development Group's effort to reach at-risk young children, including children in foster care and day care, with programs that provide counseling services for the children affected by violence.

Senator George also successfully obtained additional funding for the Kilbourn Care Center in Milwaukee, a nursing home with a high level of medial assistance patients and which is in dire financial straits. It would leave many elderly and helpless people with no place to live if it were closed.

Moreover, Senator George did seek again to merge the Bradley and the Midwest Centers.

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Senator George also sought to obtain \$1.5 million for the Marquette School of Dentistry, which is committed to community dental programs, and the Preschool to Grade 5 program was to be supported by \$2 million more for competitive grants to school districts with high concentration of economically disadvantaged pupils and a high number of dropouts; these districts include Milwaukee, Beloit, Racine and Kenosha. While these provisions were not adopted, Senator George did get a commitment from the Senate to try very very hard to get these initiatives funded.

Senator George believes that his budget vote supports Governor Doyle in that the governor would receive the budget sooner and will be able to use his veto power to protect important Democratic and progressive interests that were damaged by the budget passed by the Republicans in the Joint Finance Committee.

Senator George is against the cuts in Shared Revenue which would take away \$24 million from the City of Milwaukee and against the over \$34 million in cuts in the funding to Milwaukee Public Schools and the provisions that will limit its ability to raise additional revenues while also cutting back on funding to 4 year-old kindergarten. These and other cuts are not in the best interest of our community in Milwaukee. But with the important veto power that Governor Doyle has, a veto power that is the strongest of its kind in the nation, Senator George is very confident that once the budget passes the Assembly and reaches the governor's desk, many improvements to the budget will be made.

Finally, timely passage is very important to all people of the State because the new fiscal year begins July 1.

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