

**John Lesch**  
State Representative

District 66A  
Saint Paul



# Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, CRIME VICTIMS/CRIMINAL RECORDS DIVISION  
CHAIR, SAINT PAUL DELEGATION, TAXES  
PUBLIC SAFETY FINANCE DIVISION  
PUBLIC SAFETY POLICY AND OVERSIGHT

May 6, 2010

Rick Heller  
1223 Marion St  
Saint Paul, MN 55117-4467

Dear Rick:

Thank you for all the work you have done researching and informing legislators, agencies, and private organizations about universal design. The charts you have created documenting the way state and federal laws match up, and where they leave gaps, are particularly helpful. I admire the dedication you have shown on this project not only for your child's sake, but also for all students in Minnesota. Your effort is commendable.

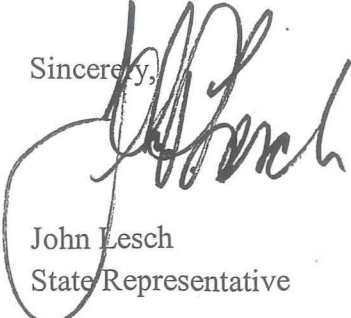
I also am intrigued with your thoughts on how universal design can be applied to apprenticeships in labor, and how the high illiteracy rate in prison relates to poor education and recidivism. I agree with you that the way that our children learn can greatly affect the path of their education. Some individuals will excel with hands-on activities while others find success in reading. Just as there are numerous ways to learn there should be a similar variety of accepted teaching methods.

As you probably know, legislative deadlines have passed and it is extremely unlikely that any bills to address universal design or the disparity between state and federal education laws can move forward this biennium. However, that does not mean your efforts are in vain. I encourage you to build upon the work you have already done and to reach out to other individuals and groups to address the situation. Your own suggestion of finding labor unions, prison officials, and teachers at all levels to back your proposals will help to make your case in 2011.



Again, thank you for your attention to detail and sincere effort to improve the education system in the state. If there is anything I can do to assist you on this, or any other issue, please let me know.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Lesch". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "J".

John Lesch  
State Representative

# Minnesota House of Representatives

## State Representative Paul Thissen

267 State Office Building  
State Office Building  
100 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd.  
651-296-5375

For more information contact: Michael Howard 651-296-8873

**Posted:** Jan 21 2016 9:45AM

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## Press/News Releases

### Rep. Thissen releases Legislative Reform Package to make Minnesota's government more open and accessible to the public

*Proposal seeks to improve Minnesota's "D- rating" for openness and transparency*

SAINT PAUL, MINN – 2015 was not a banner year for transparency in Minnesota's government. Minnesota received a D- grade for openness and transparency in state government from a report conducted by the Center for Public Integrity, a national non-profit watchdog organization. Among other reasons, the report highlighted backroom negotiations and the [chaotic conclusion of the 2015 session](#) as areas where Minnesota's government comes up short in terms of its openness to the public.

Today, State Representative Paul Thissen announced a legislative reform package that includes both statutory and procedural recommendations to make the legislature more open and transparent to the public. The recommendations include longer public notices before final actions on bills and changes to make it easier for the public to follow legislation and provide input. In addition, the proposal seeks a statutory change to stop the "revolving door" of legislators who become lobbyists and increased reporting related to per diem and other public expenditures.

"Minnesotans expect and deserve a government that puts them first, but too many people are disconnecting from a political process that they see as disproportionately benefiting the wealthy and well-connected," said Thissen. "Minnesotans I've heard from are frustrated by a lack of transparency and sense that special interests are pulling strings behind the scenes. We owe it to those Minnesotans and all of our constituents to make our legislature more transparent and more open to the public - even if it causes discomfort for us as legislators."

Thissen's package includes several changes to rules and procedures designed to improve the ability of legislators to craft sound public policy and to allow the public to participate in the process. Those changes include:

**24 hour public notice before final vote:** Require conference committee reports be published 24 hours prior to a vote taking place before each House and require House votes on concurrences from the Senate to be 24 hours prior to a vote taking place.

**Increased transparency for conference committees:** Require public notification of a conference committee adoption vote 12 hours prior to adoption vote. Also, require conference committees to provide an opportunity for public testimony.

**No more passing bills "in dark of night":** Amend House rules to forbid the ability to suspend the rules for the purpose of allowing the House to meet past midnight prior to the last two weeks of legislative session.

## News Items

- [Statement from House DFL Leader Paul Thissen on February Budget Forecast](#) - (Posted: 2016-02-26)
- [House DFL Leader Thissen statement on Graduation Rates](#) - (Posted: 2016-02-22)
- [DFL Legislators Unveil Next Generation Main Street Act to Help Small Businesses Thrive](#) - (Posted: Feb 12 2016 9:39AM)
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## Galleries

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**Increased transparency and public participation in setting joint**

**budget targets:** Require that once joint targets are adopted, the LCPFP shall hold a hearing and vote to approve target - a binding vote for both bodies. In addition, an opportunity for public testimony must be provided for. In addition, amend House Rules to require adoption of joint targets no later than 14 days prior to adjournment. And, if the fourteen day requirement is not met, require approval of the entire House for joint targets.

**Move constitutional language on "single subject rule" to House Rules:**

Require in the House Rules that no bill before the House shall embrace more than one subject (except for major finance bills).

**Limit omnibus budget bills to budget related material:** Amend House Rules so that Omnibus Budget Bills only contain budget related material.

"We must never repeat the mockery of legislative process that occurred last session when the House jammed through a \$100 million spending bill that no one - either legislators or the public - had a chance to read," said Thissen. "These rule changes may present challenges to legislators, but we need to think about our constituents, who right now face too many hurdles to follow legislation at the legislature that may have a significant impact on their lives."

Thissen's proposal would also include measures to ensure legislators are meeting a higher standard of transparency and disclosure with the public. Those changes include:

**Stop "Revolving Door":** Require a 1-year "Revolving Door" statutory change, banning former legislators, judges as well as cabinet-level executive branch members from becoming lobbyists for the formal legislative session immediately following the date of departure from public service.

**Data Practices Study:** Currently, the Minnesota House is exempt from the Data Practice Act. That should change. The Legislative Commission on Data Practices should study and report back to the legislature before the 2017 legislative session with a proposal to implement provisions of the Data Practices Act in the Minnesota House and a proposal to cover the costs of such changes.

**Increased transparency related to per diem and other public**

**expenditures:** Establish House policy to publish all information related to per diem, mileage, housing stipend, committee budgets, etc. on a rolling monthly basis.

"We need to build greater trust with the public that legislators are conducting their work on behalf of the people," said Thissen. "These provisions take steps in the right direction."

Thissen said legislation that requires statutory changes would be introduced the first week of session. He encourages the House Republican Majority to engage on a debate on House Rules around provisions that would require rule changes.



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## Website Accessibility Statement

Date: October 7, 2015

### Accessibility

The National Football League (NFL) is committed to facilitating the accessibility and usability of its Web site, NFL.com, for all people with disabilities. Working with a retained accessibility consultant, the NFL will be implementing over time the relevant portions of the World Wide Web Consortium's Web Content Accessibility Guidelines 2.0 Level AA (WCAG 2.0 AA) as its web accessibility standard, which will also bring NFL.com into conformance with the Section 508 Web Accessibility Standards developed by the United States Access Board (Section 508). Our website will be tested on a periodic basis with assistive technology such as screen readers and screen magnifiers, and with users with disabilities who use these technologies.

Below are some of the steps we are taking under our accessibility policy:

We have engaged an experienced accessibility consultant, The National Center for Accessible Media at WGBH (NCAM), to conduct a website accessibility audit and provide the NFL with specific recommendations to facilitate website accessibility and conformance with WCAG 2.0 AA standards.

The NFL's accessibility consultant will provide training on a periodic basis for the NFL's Web development team on WCAG 2.0 AA and Section 508 conformance.

On an ongoing basis, the NFL will have periodic website accessibility audits, as well as end-user accessibility testing and evaluation of NFL.com, conducted in order to provide prioritized feedback to the NFL regarding conformance with WCAG 2.0 AA standards.

The NFL has adopted a website accessibility policy to support its commitment to the accessibility of NFL.com.

### Contact The NFL With Your Accessibility Questions

Please be aware that our efforts are ongoing. If, at any time, you have specific questions or concerns about the accessibility of any particular Web page on NFL.com, please contact us at [accessibility@nfl.com](mailto:accessibility@nfl.com). If you do encounter an accessibility issue, please be sure to specify the Web page in your email, and we will make all reasonable efforts to make that page accessible for you.

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USA Football  
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NFL On Location  
NFL Extra Points  
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**Rick Heller**

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**From:** "Jason Kuenle" <jason.kuenle@revisor.mn.gov>  
**To:** <mnricks@mninter.net>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 15, 2015 12:56 PM  
**Attach:** 15-3301.pdf; 15-3301 memo.pdf  
**Subject:** Bill draft and memo update

Hi Rick,

Attached is the bill and corresponding memo in pdf format for the bill that I have been working with you on.

Last month, you laid out three things that you wanted done before moving forward:

- 1) send you the content attached;
- 2) send this same content to Rep. Erickson and Sen. Wiger; and
- 3) ensure that these documents were accessible by screen reader.

This e-mail fulfills item 1 and these same documents have been sent to the offices of Rep. Erickson and Sen. Wiger to fulfill item 2. However, I cannot fulfill item 3 this session. The drafting program developed by this office does not allow exporting pdfs with strike and underscore that is readable by JAWS and we will not be able to implement that functionality before the end of session. As I am sure you have used this session, the bill portion of the legislature's website has undergone substantial changes in order to facilitate screen reader usage. However, due to the confidentiality requirements of this office, I cannot post un-introduced bills to the public website to make use of these new features. Upon introduction of the bill, the screen reader function should work the same as for every other bill on our website.

The next step in the process is having the bill introduced. I can send the jacketed versions of the bill to 1) Rep. Erickson, 2) Sen. Wiger, or 3) the House copies to Rep. Erickson and the Senate to Sen. Wiger. Please let me know how you would like me to proceed from here. And if you have any further questions.

Thanks,  
Jason

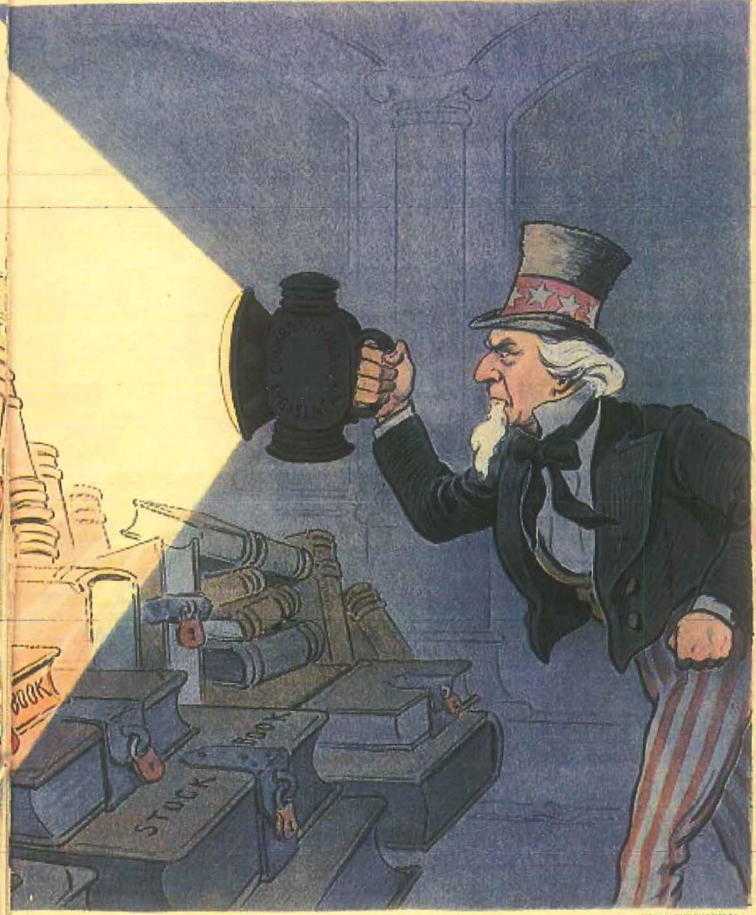
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J.S. TUCHE

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 Untax. Tax. — You're a powerful big man, a  
 dark? — Open up those books!



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 Online Source: [blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2013/04/official-authenticated-preserved-and-accessible-the-](https://blogs.loc.gov/digitalpreservation/2013/04/official-authenticated-preserved-and-accessible-the-)

