

Friends of Dan Sullivan
PMB 671, 4306 S. Peoria
Tulsa, OK 74105

Dear Friend:

The 2008 legislative session has come to a close, and I am more humbled than ever by the opportunity to serve you for the last four years.

I was honored to have a hand in passing several important pieces of legislation, which I believe will impact Oklahoma for generations to come. I want to tell you more about this legislation, and I'm hopeful that this report will provide you with valuable information to benefit you and your family.

As always, I welcome your comments and questions. You can reach me personally at (918) 406-0579 or dan4h71@cox.net. You can also visit my Web site at www.dansullivancampaign.com

Sincerely,



Representative Dan Sullivan

REPRESENTATIVE
**DAN
SULLIVAN**

2008
ANNUAL
LEGISLATIVE
REPORT

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REPRESENTATIVE
DAN SULLIVAN





Streamlining Government and Improving Accountability

- Rarely has ethics in government been under more scrutiny, and for good reason. That's why I authored a bill to close a loophole in elected officials' retirement benefits to ensure that retirement income will never exceed salary earned. (SB 1641)

- I helped pass a plan to modernize the state's invoicing process to allow for vendors to be paid electronically, saving precious time and money. (HB 3325)
- I supported a bill that will require the state to adopt several business recommendations aimed at improving the efficiency of state purchasing practices and tracking of state property. The bill will save an estimated \$25 million annually. (SB 1189)

Innovative Solutions for Strengthening Schools

- Students in our most challenging schools can now benefit from outstanding teachers, on temporary loan from the national Teach for America program. My hope is that many of these young teachers will develop a passion for working with disadvantaged students, and return to these schools permanently. (HB 3124)
- I backed a measure to raise expectations for Oklahoma students by preventing certain taxpayer-financed scholarship funds from being used to pay for remedial college coursework. Unfortunately, the bill died in committee. (HB 3102)
- We must reward our best teachers. That's why I voted in favor of expanding the Academic Achievement Award Program to allow more teachers to receive bonuses for helping their schools perform and improve. This bill also died in committee. (HB 3118)
- I helped pass Senate Bill 2100, which establishes a pilot program allowing up to 10 schools across the state to voluntarily deregulate from state mandates in an effort to achieve better results.
- I was an author of Senate Bill 1240, which would protect school districts and schools from lawsuit abuse. The bill was vetoed by the governor, unfortunately.

Growing Oklahoma's Future

- I voted in favor of a plan to expand the annual sales tax holiday to include tax-free purchases of school supplies and instructional materials. The bill died in committee this year, but I intend to fight again next year for its passage. (SB 1149)
- I backed efforts to accelerate the repeal of Oklahoma's death tax, also known as the "estate tax." The bill, which would have saved grieving families an estimated \$30.2 million per year beginning in 2009, died in committee. (SB 1383)
- Rising property taxes can be a heavy burden for seniors on fixed incomes. Senate Bill 1956 relieves some of the burden by allowing homestead exemptions to be increased by an amount equal to any increase in inflation.

A Strong, Secure and Healthy Oklahoma

- In an effort to better protect children and other victims of abuse, I helped pass a measure requiring defendants who have a protective order issued in a domestic abuse case to wear a Global Positioning System (GPS) device. (SB 2163)
- Because child obesity rates are skyrocketing, I was pleased to support a new law that doubles the amount of weekly physical activity required for students in kindergarten through fifth grade. (SB 1186)
- Some of Oklahoma's most vulnerable citizens will be safer with the passage of Senate Bill 1600, which I supported. The measure increases the penalties for abuses and crimes against elderly and incapacitated persons.
- I was a proud supporter of "Julie's Law," named in honor of slain ballerina Julie Buskin. The law would expand the state's DNA database to help solve more crimes faster and to prevent further crimes by unidentified offenders. Julie Buskin's murderer was identified many years after her death by a DNA sample taken at the crime scene. Unfortunately, the measure failed in the Senate in the last days of session. (SB 2041)

Protecting the Gift of Life

I was encouraged by the bipartisan effort to pass a comprehensive pro-life measure. Together, Democrats and Republicans voted to override Governor Brad Henry's veto of the bill. The provisions do the following: (SB 1878)

- Protects health care professionals' right to refuse to participate in medical procedures involving the destruction of human life.
- Requires that before an abortion is performed, a woman is given the opportunity to view an ultrasound with an explanation of what is depicted.
- Prevents the award of damages resulting from "wrongful life" lawsuits that claim a baby would have been better off aborted.
- Requires posting of information to protect women from being forced into having an abortion.
- Regulates the use of the chemical abortion pill, RU-486.

Supporting Our Military Heroes

- Frequent moves and the deployment of parents often create barriers to educational success for children of military families. I helped pass the Educational Compact for Military Children, which passed, making Oklahoma the sixth state to commit to the provisions of the compact. Three more states have signed and with one more governor's signature the compact will be enacted. (SB 1951)
- I voted in favor of a bill increasing the state income tax deduction for military income for all active, reserve and National Guard service members, but the bill failed in the Senate. (HB 2706)