

2007 Legislative Agenda

Close Corporate Tax Loopholes

- Pass several measures to close corporate tax loopholes.
 1. Stop businesses from shifting income to out-of-state subsidiaries to avoid paying state taxes – combined reporting.
 2. Prevent a corporation from claiming one status for state taxes and another for federal to pay less in state taxes – “check the box.”
 3. Subject pole and wires owned by telephone companies to the same local property taxes paid by electrical companies for similar equipment.

Health Care Reform (ACT! Campaign)

- Allow income-eligible individuals to continue to qualify for uncompensated care.
- Reduce Commonwealth Care premium levels to amounts that low-income people can afford and enforcing the individual mandate for people between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level only if such affordable plans are available.
- Raise the minimum for “fair and reasonable” employer coverage to 50% of premium and 50% employee participation to be exempt from the employer assessment.
- Extend dental coverage to all Commonwealth Care enrollees.

Affordable Housing

- Pass the Housing Bond Bill for \$1.2 billion to maintain and build more affordable housing units.
- Increase funding to \$38 million for the Massachusetts Rental Voucher Program which provides an additional 1,000 vouchers.

CORI Reform

- Improve access to jobs and housing for people with CORI files.
- Reform current law to eliminate the abusive and erroneous use of CORI files.

Welfare

- Protect the welfare safety net through An Act for Responsible Welfare Reform, which would revise the state’s welfare law to avoid federal fiscal penalties and to preserve subsistence benefits for vulnerable families with children.

Education

- Set up an alternative for high school students that fail MCAS, but pass courses.
- Increase funding for MCAS tutoring.
- Increase funding for English as a Second Language (ESL) and Adult Basic Education programs.