



# 1997 REPORT on the MINNESOTA LEGISLATURE

by the  
LEGISLATIVE EVALUATION ASSEMBLY  
of MINNESOTA, INC.

for an  
INFORMED CITIZENRY



**CREDO** - *The Legislative Evaluation Assembly of Minnesota, Incorporated (LEA) is a non-profit, non-partisan corporation established to keep the citizens of Minnesota informed of both important legislation and the voting performance of each Senator and Representative in the Minnesota State Legislature. LEA bases its evaluation on the traditional American principles of constitutionalism, limited government, free enterprise, legal and moral order with justice and individual liberty and dignity. LEA encourages the use of the material in this Report, in whole or in part, by any group or individual.*

## 1997 HONOREES

### Honorees-House



Bettermann Broecker Commers Dehler Haas Harder Holsten Kielkucki Knight Krinkie Kuisle Larsen Lindner

### Honorees-Senate



Fischbach Kleis Knutson Lesewski Limmer



Olson, G. Pariseau Runbeck Scheevel Stevens



Macklin Molnau Mulder Olson, M. Paulsen Pawlenty Reuter



Rifenberg Seifert Smith Stanek Stang Swenson, H. Van Dellen

### Honorable Mention-House

Anderson, B., Davids, Dempsey, Goodno, Knobloch, Koppendreyer, Kraus, Nornes, Osskopp, Seagren, Sviggum, Sykora, Tingelstad, Tuma, Vickerman, Weaver, Westrom, Wolf, Workman.

\* Mary Ellen Otremba was elected Nov. 4 to succeed her recently deceased husband in district 11B. She participated in only one vote, voting No on item 15. LEA thought this insufficient participation to give a rating.

### Honorable Mention-Senate

Berg, Neuville, Oliver, Ourada, Robling.

## 1997 LEGISLATIVE REVIEW

In these annual reports the Minnesota Legislative Evaluation Assembly (LEA) seeks to inform citizens on how members of the state legislature vote on the more pressing issues facing the people of Minnesota. It is true that, as stated in our credo above, LEA tries to do this from the standpoint of time-proven American principles.

Sometimes we citizens are encouraged by the actions and temper of our legislature. Sometimes we are discouraged. LEA tries to pick typical votes on issues affecting the entire range of our lives. We pass our report and evaluations on to the public that it may be guided as it considers the issues of public concern, and each legislator's general attitude on them. LEA realizes some of the issues confronting the state may be mixed packages and are controversial.

**For example, take the field of Education.** What are our children being taught? Who writes their textbooks? All this commotion and expenditure of tens of millions of dollars about graduation - and diversity - rules! Goals 2000! Who makes these rules? Who sets the g... It is our legislators and appointing governors which have given these powers to entrenched professional bureaucrats. Does the legislature, or the public, have any control? Why the constant stirring of the pot of racism and diversity, particularly by the media and some school personnel? Why do not all of our public schools offer the same opportunities on an equal basis? Why don't the teachers themselves clean up their labor unions so that they can concentrate on fundamental education rather than pressuring legislators for enactment of their

far-left socio-political agendas?

How far do Minnesotans want to go toward destruction of their families, their moral codes, their respect for and honoring of the Creator, and for individual rights to life, liberty, property and opportunity? Do we as a people want to live by the principles outlined in our Declaration of Independence and Bill of Rights? Or do we want to slink closer and closer to enacting the ideas and philosophies expressed in such documents as the Humanist and Communist Manifestoes?

**Another Example: Metro Government.** How much government do Minnesota citizens need? In the name of statewide land use planning a new "Advisory Council on Community Based Planning" was added to the already existing state "Office of Strategic and Long-Range Planning," and to the Metropolitan Council - a defacto additional layer of government.

**Another Example: Socialized Medicine?** In the 1997 session, the legislature created six "coordinating boards corresponding to the regions into which the state has been divided for the administration of health care." Is government controlled medicine to be used as a vehicle to create bigger and bigger government to control more and more of the details of our lives, including the decision as to whether or not we as individuals are to be allowed to live at all? Is this our entrance into socialized medicine?



# HOUSE

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	97	C
r	45A	Abrams, R. (Minnetonka)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		Y	64	53
r	19B	Anderson, B. (Buffalo)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	-		*N	88	93
d	3A	Anderson, I. (Int'l Falls)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	29
d	6A	Bakk, T. (Cook)	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	-	Y	-	Y	Y	*N	N	Y	29	5
r	10B	Bettermann, H. (Brandon)	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	N	N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N	N	Y	91	80.5
d	59A	Biernat, L. (St. Paul)	*Y	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	36
r	30B	Bishop, D. (Rochester)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	*N	*Y	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	48	42
r	25B	Boudreau, L. (Faribault)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	Y	Y	Y	73	78
r	30A	Bradley, F. (Rochester)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	Y	Y	Y	81	73
r	53B	Broecker, S. (Vandais Heights)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	79
d	46B	Carlson, L. (Crystal)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	17
d	47B	Carruthers, P. (Brooklyn Center)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	27	13.7
d	52A	Chaudhary, S. (Fridley)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	45
d	61A	Clark, K. (Minneapolis)	N	-	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	18	12
r	38A	Commers, T. (Eagan)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	100	96.5
r	11A	Daggett, R. (Frazee)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	Y	Y	Y	73	78
r	31B	Davids, G. (Preston)	N	*Y	*Y		-		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	88	77
d	65A	Dawkins, A. (St. Paul)	*Y	N	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	27	10.4
r	14A	Dehler, S. (St. Joseph)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	83
d	51A	Delmont, M. (Lexington)	N	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	27	12.5
r	29A	Dempsey, J. (Hastings)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	82	76.5
d	24A	Dorn, J. (Mankato)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	27	24.9
d	64A	Entenza, M. (St. Paul)	*Y	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	18
r	42A	Erhart, R. (Edina)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		Y	73	61.3
d	52B	Evans, G. (New Brighton)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	45
d	67A	Farrell, J. (St. Paul)	*Y	*Y	N		N		-	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	38	18.5
r	1B	Finseth, T. (Angus)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	*Y	Y	Y	*N		Y	64	86
d	44A	Folliard, B. (Hopkins)	*Y	*Y	N		N		-	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	38	36
d	63B	Garcia, E. (Richfield)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	22.5
r	9A	Goodno, K. (Moorhead)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	Y	Y	Y	82	70
d	62A	Greenfield, L. (Minneapolis)	*Y	N	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	27	7.8
d	4B	Greiling, M. (Roseville)	*Y	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	19
r	26A	Gunther, B. (Fairmont)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	N	*N	*N	*N		Y	73	73
r	48A	Haas, B. (Champlin)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	100	83.5
r	22B	Harder, E. (Jackson)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	70.5
d	12A	Hasskamp, K. (Crosby)	N	*Y	-		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	36	35.1
d	66B	Hausman, A. (St. Paul)	N	N	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	0	6.3
d	8	Hilty, B. (Finlayson)	*Y	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	45
r	56A	Holsten, M. (Stillwater)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	83.7
d	6	Huntley, T. (Duluth)	*Y	N	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	27	14.5
d	7	Jaros, M. (Duluth)	N	N	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	9	6.4
d	58B	Jefferson, R. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	9	9
d	18B	Jennings, L. (Harris)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	Y	27	42.5
d	48B	Johnson, A. (Spring Lake Park)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	12.9
d	24B	Johnson, R. (St. Peter)	*Y	*Y	N		N		-	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	38	23
d	15A	Juhnke, A. (Willmar)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	64
d	59B	Kahn, P. (Minneapolis)	N	N	N		N		Y	-	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	18	8.4
d	26B	Kalis, H. (Walter)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	42.6
r	35B	Kelso, B. (Shakopee)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	34.7
d	20B	Kielucki, T. (Lester Prairie)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	91
d	4B	Kinkel, A. (Park Rapids)	N	*Y	N		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	-		Y	28	22.6
r	40B	Knight, K. (Bloomington)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	84
r	16B	Knoblach, J. (St. Cloud)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		Y	82	73.5
r	17A	Koppendrayner, L. (Princeton)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	Y	Y	Y	82	84.3
d	99B	Koskinen, L. (Coon Rapids)	*Y	*Y	N		*Y		*N	-	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	58	58
r	27A	Kraus, R. (Albert Lea)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	82	82.5
r	53A	Krinkie, P. (Shoreview)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	79.7
d	15A	Kubly, G. (Granite Falls)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	64
r	31A	Kuisle, W. (Rochester)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	100	100
r	56B	Larsen, P. (Lakeland)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	62
d	27B	Leighton, R. (Austin)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	-	*N		*N	48	24
r	45B	Leppik, P. (Golden Valley)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	*N	N	Y	*N	-		Y	48	40
d	2A	Lieder, B. (Crookston)	*Y	*Y	N		*Y		*N	Y	-	Y	Y	*N		Y	48	28.5
r	33A	Lindner, A. (Corcoran)	N	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	94.2
d	60A	Long, D. (Minneapolis)	*Y	*Y	N		N		Y	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	Y	*N	27	9.6
d	47A	Luther, D. (Brooklyn Park)	N	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	28.3
r	37B	Macklin, B. (Lakeville)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	100	72.7



# HOUSE

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	97	C
d	40A	Mahon, M. (Bloomington)	*Y	*Y	N		N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	23.2
r	55A	Mares, H. (White Bear Lake)	*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y		*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	Y		Y	73	61.5
d	65B	Mariani, C. (St. Paul)		N	*Y	N	N		Y	Y	-	Y	Y	*N		*N	28	10.3
	57B	Marko, S. (Newport)	N	*Y	*Y	N	N	-	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	43	22.5
	55B	McCollum, B. (No. St. Paul)	N	*Y	*Y	N	N		*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		*N	36	21.5
r	36B	McElroy, D. (Burnsville)		*Y	*Y	*Y	*Y		*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	Y		Y	73	61.5
d	54A	McGuire, M. (Falcon Heights)	V	*Y	*Y	N	V	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N	V	*N	36	16.1
d	39B	Milbert, B. (So. St. Paul)	V	*Y	*Y	N	V	*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y	V	Y	36	23.3
r	35A	Molnau, C. (Chaska)	T	*Y	*Y	*Y	T	*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N	T	*N	100	96.5
r	21B	Mulder, R. (Ivanhoe)	E	*Y	*Y	*Y	E	*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	-	*N	E	*N	98	91.5
d	58A	Mullery, J. (Minneapolis)		N	*Y	N		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	45
d	7A	Munger, W. (Duluth)	H	*Y	-	N	H	N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N	H	Y	18	10.1
d	8A	Murphy, M. (Hermantown)	H	N	*Y	N	H	*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N	H	*N	45	20.9
r	20A	Ness, R. (Dassel)	H	N	*Y	*Y	H	*Y	*N	-	*Y	Y	*N	*N	H	Y	68	78.7
r	10A	Normes, B. (Fergus Falls)	H	*Y	*Y	*Y	H	*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N	H	Y	82	82
d	2B	Olson, E. (Fosston)	E	*Y	*Y	N	E	*Y	*N	Y	-	Y	Y	Y	E	-	40	29.1
r	19A	Olson, M. (Big Lake)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	95.7
d	16A	Opatz, J. (St. Cloud)		*Y	*Y	N		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	45	41.8
d	60B	Orfield, M. (Minneapolis)		*Y	*Y	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	17.3
r	29B	Osskopp, M. (Lake City)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	Y	*N		*N	82	74.5
d	66A	Osthoff, T. (St. Paul)		N	N	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	18	23.9
d	11B	Otremba, K. (Long Prairie)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	-	N	-	Y	-		*N	69	59.5
r	37A	Ozment, D. (Rosemount)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	Y	Y		*N	64	62.4
r	42B	Paulsen, E. (Eden Prairie)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		Y	91	95.5
r	38B	Pawlenty, T. (Eagan)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	91	85.2
d	64B	Paymar, M. (St. Paul)		*Y	N	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	27	27
d	32	Pelowski Jr., G. (Winona)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	55	34
d	13B	Peterson, D. (Madison)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	36.8
d	39A	Pugh, T. (So. St. Paul)		*Y	*Y	N		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	55	26.5
d	46A	Rest, A. (New Hope)		*Y	*Y	N		N	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		Y	27	24.6
r	28A	Reuter, D. (Owatonna)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	91
d	44B	Rhodes, J. (St. Louis Park)		*Y	*Y	N		N	*N	Y	N	Y	*N	*N		*N	55	39
d	32B	Rifenberg, M. (La Crescent)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	91
r	18A	Rostberg, M. (Isanti)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	Y		Y	73	70
d	5A	Rukavina, T. (Virginia)		N	-	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		Y	8	9
d	17B	Schumacher, L. (Princeton)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	64	48.5
r	41A	Seagren, A. (Bloomington)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		Y	82	69.5
r	21A	Seifert, M. (Marshall)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	91
d	50A	Sekhon, K. (Anoka)		*Y	N	N		N	Y	Y	-	Y	Y	*N		*N	28	28
d	4A	Skare, G. (Bemidji)		*Y	*Y	N		N	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	45
d	52B	Skoglund, W. (Minneapolis)		*Y	*Y	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	15.7
d	57A	Slawik, N. (Maplewood)		*Y	*Y	N		N	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	45	45
r	34A	Smith, S. (Mound)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	91	86.4
d	3B	Solberg, L. (Bovey)		*Y	*Y	N		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		Y	36	16.3
r	33B	Stanek, R. (Maple Grove)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	100	100
r	14B	Stang, D. (Cold Spring)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	100	100
r	28B	Sviggum, S. (Kenyon)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	*N		Y	82	82.5
r	51B	Swenson, D. (Forest Lake)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	Y		Y	73	66.7
r	23B	Swenson, H. (Nicollet)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	91	87
r	43B	Sykora, B. (Excelsior)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	Y		Y	82	66
r	50B	Tingelstad, K. (Andover)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		-	88	88
d	5B	Tomassoni, D. (Chisholm)		*Y	*Y	N		N	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		Y	27	12.9
r	86A	Tompkins, E. (Apple Valley)		N	*Y	*Y		-	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	68	73
d	67B	Trimble, S. (St. Paul)		*Y	N	N		N	-	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	28	8
r	15A	Tuma, J. (Northfield)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	Y	*N		*N	87	82.5
d	1A	Tunheim, J. (Kennedy)		*Y	*Y	N		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		Y	36	27.4
r	34B	Van Dellen, T. (Plymouth)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	94	80.7
r	23A	Vickerman, B. (Redwood Falls)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	-		-	84	86
d	63A	Wagenius, J. (Minneapolis)		*Y	*Y	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	36	13.3
r	49A	Weaver, C. (Anoka)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		Y	82	59.8
d	61B	Wejcman, L. (Minneapolis)		*Y	-	N		N	Y	Y	N	Y	Y	*N		*N	28	15.3
d	12B	Wenzel, S. (Little Falls)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	*N	Y		Y	55	30.9
r	9B	Westfall, R. (Rothsay)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	Y	Y		Y	73	73
r	13A	Westrom, T. (Elbow Lake)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	Y	*N	*N		*N	82	82
d	22A	Winter, T. (Fulda)		*Y	*Y	N		*Y	*N	Y	N	Y	Y	Y		*N	45	27.9
r	41B	Wolf, K. (Burnsville)		*Y	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	*N	*Y	*N	*N	Y		Y	81	81
r	43A	Workman, T. (Chanhassen)		N	*Y	*Y		*Y	*N	Y	*Y	*N	*N	*N		*N	81	81

See note Pg. 1



# SENATE

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	97%	C%
d	66	Anderson, E. (St. Paul)	N	*Y		N	N	N		Y		Y	Y	Y	-		9	5
d	26	Beckman, T. (Bricelyn)	N	*Y		*Y	N	-		Y		Y	-	Y	N		21	3.3
r	41	Belanger, T. (Bloomington)	*Y	-		*Y	*Y	*Y		Y		*N	*N	Y	-		71	63
i	13	Berg, C. (Chokio)	*Y	*Y	N	N	*Y	*Y	N	*N	N	*N	Y	*N	-	N	86	
d	61	Berglin, L. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y	O	O	N	-	N	O	Y	O	Y	Y	Y	-	O	7
d	48	Betzold, D. (Fridley)	N	*Y			N	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		10	2.0
d	64	Cohen, R. (St. Paul)	-	*Y	V	V	-	N	N	V	Y	V	Y	Y	N	V	9	4.0
r	28	Day, D. (Owatonna)	*Y	-	O	O	*Y	*Y	*Y	O	Y	O	*N	Y	*N	*Y	75	66.2
r	20	Dille, S. (Dassel)	N	*Y	T	T	*Y	*Y	*Y	T	Y	T	Y	Y	N	T	40	54.4
r	14	Fischbach, M. (Paynesville)	*Y	*Y	E	E	-	*Y	*Y	E	*N	E	*N	-	*N	*Y	96	96
d	52	Flynn, C. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y			N	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		10	7.1
d	49	Foley, L. (Anoka)	N	*Y	S	S	N	N	N	S	Y	S	Y	Y	N	S	10	10
r	23	Fredrickson, D. (New Ulm)	*Y	*Y	E	E	*Y	*Y	*Y	E	Y	E	*N	Y	*Y	E	70	58.6
d	50	Hanson, P. (Ham Lake)	*Y	*Y	N	N	*Y	*Y	*Y	N	Y	N	Y	Y	*N	N	60	31.6
d	58	Higgins, L. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y	A	A	N	N	N	A	Y	A	Y	Y	N	A	10	10
d	24	Hottinger, J. (Mankato)	N	-	T	T	N	N	N	T	Y	A	Y	Y	N	T	-2	18.1
d	5	Janezich, J. (Chisholm)	N	*Y	E	E	*Y	N	*Y	E	Y	E	Y	Y	-	E	31	9.8
d	40	Johnson, D. H. (Bloomington)	-	*Y			*Y	N	-	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		21	21
r	15	Johnson, D. E. (Willmar)	N	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	Y	Y	N		50	56
d	5	Johnson, D.J. (Tower)	N	-			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	-	*N	N		46	16.3
d	18	Johnson, J. B. (North Branch)	N	*Y			*Y	N	N	Y		Y	Y	*N	-		31	20
d	46	Junge, E. (New Hope)	N	*Y			*Y	N	N	Y		Y	*N	*N	N		40	16.5
d	4	Kelley, S. (Hopkins)	N	*Y			*Y	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		20	20
d	57	Kelly, R. (St. Paul)	N	*Y			*Y	-	*Y	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		42	14
r	30	Kiscaden, S. (Rochester)	N	*Y			-	N	*Y	Y		*N	*N	-	*Y		61	60.2
r	16	Kleis, D. (St. Cloud)	Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		Y	*N	*N	*Y		90	87.3
r	36	Knutson, D. (Burnsville)	Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	*N	*N	*Y		90	87.3
d	51	Krentz, J. (May Township)	N	*Y			*Y	N	-	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		31	24.2
r	56	Laidig, G. (Stillwater)	N	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	-	Y	N		53	66.7
d	9	Langseth, K. (Glyndon)	-	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		42	33.7
r	10	Larson, C. (Fergus Falls)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	-	Y	N		65	63.8
r	21	Lesewski, A. (Marshall)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		*N	*N	Y	*Y		90	2
d	3	Lessard, B. (Int'l Falls)	N	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	-	-	N		46	
r	33	Limmer, W. (Maple Grove)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	*N	*N	*Y		90	87.3
d	8	Lourey, B. (Kerrick)	N	*Y			N	N	N	Y		Y	-	*N	N		20	18
d	54	Marty, J. (Roseville)	N	*Y			N	N	N	Y		Y	Y	*N	*Y		30	9.6
d	39	Metzen, J. (South St. Paul)	N	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		50	24.7
d	2	Moe, R. (Erskine)	-	*Y			-	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		9	16.7
d	32	Morse, S. (Dakota)	N	*Y			*Y	N	*Y	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		40	23.8
d	29	Murphy, S. (Red Wing)	N	*Y			*Y	N	*Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		30	16.4
r	25	Neuville, T. (Northfield)	*Y	-			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		*N	*N	Y	*Y		87	65.6
d	52	Novak, S. (New Brighton)	N	*Y			*Y	N	*Y	Y		Y	-	Y	N		31	11.8
r	43	Oliver, E. (Deephaven)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	*N	Y	*Y		80	61.8
r	34	Olson, G. (Minnetrista)	*Y	*Y			-	*Y	*Y	*N		*N	-	*N	*Y		96	81.2
r	19	Ourada, M. (Buffalo)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		Y	*N	Y	*Y		80	64.7
d	65	Pappas, S. (St. Paul)	N	-			N	N	N	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		9	3.7
r	37	Pariseau, P. (Farmington)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		*N	*N	*N	*Y		100	72.6
d	27	Piper, P. (Austin)	N	*Y			N	N	N	Y		Y	-	*N	N		20	6.7
d	59	Pogemiller, L. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y			-	N	N	Y		Y	-	Y	N		9	5
d	57	Price, L. (Woodbury)	N	*Y			-	N	*Y	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		31	14.4
d	63	Ranum, J. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y			N	-	N	-		-	Y	*N	N		23	10.3
r	45	Robertson, M. (Minnetonka)	*Y	*Y			-	N	N	*N		*N	Y	*N	*Y		65	58
r	35	Robling, C. (Prior Lake)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	-	*N	*Y		87	87
r	53	Runbeck, L. (Circle Pines)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	*N	*N	*Y		90	73
d	11	Sams, D. (Staples)	N	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	-	*N	N		54	35.7
d	12	Samuelson, D. (Brainerd)	N	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	Y	*N	N		50	35.8
r	31	Scheevel, K. (Preston)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		*N	*N	*N	*Y		100	90.6
d	47	Scheid, L. (Brooklyn Park)	N	*Y			*Y	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		20	20
d	7	Solon, S. (Duluth)	N	-			*Y	N	*Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		20	16.4
d	60	Spear, A. (Minneapolis)	N	*Y			N	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	-		9	8.1
r	17	Stevens, D. (Mora)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	*N		*N	*N	*N	-		98	4
d	1	Stumpf, L. (Thief Rvr. Falls)	-	*Y			*Y	*Y	-	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		31	28.6
d	4	Ten Eyck, D. (E. Gull Lk.)	N	*Y			N	N	*Y	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		20	20
r	42	Terwilliger, R. (Edina)	*Y	*Y			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		*N	Y	Y	N		60	63.3
d	22	Vickerman, J. (Tracy)	N	-			*Y	*Y	*Y	Y		Y	-	Y	N		36	41.6
d	38	Wiener, D. (Eagan)	N	*Y			*Y	N	N	Y		Y	Y	Y	N		20	16.9
d	55	Wiger, C. (North St. Paul)	N	*Y			*Y	N	*Y	Y		Y	Y	*N	-		42	42



Each year we citizens look to our legislative sessions to give us constructive action in response to the many concerns some of us have. Especially when we are disappointed, we recall that the legislature is elected by the citizens and does reflect their general thinking, whether constructive, destructive, or just plain apathetic. We re-realize that solutions revert back to the whole process of education of the citizenry, for which purpose LEA was organized and exists.

Y = Yes                      d = Democratic-Farmer--Labor  
N = No                      r = Republican                      i = Independent

- indicates legislator excused, absent, or not voting.

\* denotes vote favored by LEA.

1997% means percentage of legislator's votes favored by LEA in the 1997 session.

C% means legislator's career average LEA score.

LEA calculates percentages using the votes actually cast by each legislator and then deducting two percentage points for each time that legislator did not cast a vote.

## KEY VOTES - EDUCATION

### 1. SF 493. Step, then misstep.

G. Olson Amendment. An amendment to SF493 offered by Senator Gen Olson was a pivotal issue in the 1997 session. It proposed to offer parents more choices in their children's education. The amendment would have reduced the state income tax paid by many parents by giving deductions from their taxable income. These deductions would have been allowed for the costs of tuition, textbooks, and transportation up to \$1,950 for each child in kindergarten through 8th grade, and \$3,000 each in 9th through 12th grades. There were limitations. Home school families would have been limited to \$1,000 in costs and families with a taxable income of over \$39,000 would have been ineligible. A credit is a deduction for taxes owed. On balance LEA favors a Yes vote. The amendment failed 22-40.

### 2. HF2179. Statewide Pupil and School Performance Testing.

Authors: Opatz, Pogemiller. This bill requires testing of students annually in the third, fifth, and eighth grades. It refers to Minnesota basic skills tests in reading and mathematics. Among the tests specified are the American College Test and the National Assessment of Educational Progress. The Minnesota basic skills tests results would be saved and aggregated to be available for comparing among school districts and for indicating performance changes over time. The objectives of this bill are good. They are surprising only in that they seem to imply that such testing has not been done in the past. The vote on passage was 102-32 in the House and 59-0 in the Senate. LEA favors a Yes vote.

### SF933. Please Take One More Bite for Mommy.

Authors: Spear, Entenza. This bill addresses a real problem: poor school attendance and performance in grades one through twelve; and the juvenile crime which often results. The specified goals of the bill are to: increase school attendance, decrease suspensions and dropouts, increase measured academic achievement, and decrease juvenile crime- all very worthy goals. The bill's solution? PAY THESE POOR-ACHIEVING AND CRIME-INCLINED CHILDREN FOR THEIR DEFIANCE OF WHAT SOCIETY IS OFFERING AND EXPECTING OF THEM! We have seen no public opinion poll on this, but the approach is quite contrary to LEA's stated principles - and to common sense. In committees THE ESSENCE OF THIS BILL WAS ROLLED INTO THE OMNIBUS EDUCATION BILL. Having no separate vote on this, we cannot include it in our rating, but we comment on it to readers of this report to convey general legislative thinking.

## SOCIAL WELFARE, HEALTH AND HUMAN LIFE

### 3. SF1908. Family Planning Services.

Tompkins Amendment - Part I. This amended SF1908's definition of

"family planning services" to include "counseling and education for minors by trained personnel regarding abstinence" and "abstinence education for minors." Part I passed the House 120-10.

### 4. Tompkins Amendment - Part II.

This got down to the practical application. It stated: \$600,000 (of the appropriations in the omnibus Human Services bill) for each year is from the increased appropriation to fund abstinence education and counseling programs for minors." Part II passed the House 69-64. LEA favors a Yes in both Tompkins Amendment votes.

### 5. SF1350. Assisted Suicide.

Knutson Amendment. Senator Knutson offered an amendment to SF1350 as follows: "Subd 4. Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize a person licensed in another state or jurisdiction to prescribe a controlled substance with intent to assist another in taking the other's own life in violation of Section 609.125 with intent or knowledge that the prescription will be dispensed in Minnesota." This amendment passed the Senate 45-14. It is truly sad that our society has regressed to the point that it is necessary to pass laws to prevent assisted suicide. It is reassuring to see this good majority of our state senate asserting an appreciation of life on this issue. LEA favors the Yes vote.

### 6. Partial Birth Abortion.

Parliamentary Procedure; Introduction of Resolution. Authors: Senator Neuville, Representatives Sviggum and Van Dellen. Since the Roe vs. Wade decision by the Supreme Court in 1973 projected the abortion controversy onto American society, LEA, in keeping with its basic belief in "American principles of legal and moral order with justice, and individual liberty and dignity," has consistently opposed abortion. However, no aspect of the practice has been so revolting as the procedure which has come into use, commonly known as "partial birth abortion". SUCKING OUT THE BRAINS OF LIVE HUMAN BABIES REFLECTS A SOCIETY AND CULTURE NO LONGER FIT TO BE CALLED CIVILIZATION, BUT ONE SUNK TO UTMOST HUMAN DEPTHS. Though two U.S. Congresses have passed legislation to ban the practice nationally, their efforts have been foiled by presidential vetoes. Several state legislatures have banned it in their states. The membership of the current Minnesota legislature is so constituted that no bill relating to supervision or control of abortion was so much as heard in any committee in 1997. Several amendments to various bills were attempted on the chamber floors. Some were adopted, but were eliminated in leadership-appointed conference committees. Perhaps the vote most indicative of legislators' attitudes came on an attempt in each body to send a resolution to Congress commending it for approving the ban on partial birth. Legislative rules require a two-thirds majority to grant permission for introduction of such a resolution. This permission was requested by Neuville in the Senate and Sviggum and Van Dellen in the House. In each chamber the vote fell short of the necessary two thirds. Senate vote: 32-32; House vote: 80-51. LEA, of course, favors the Yes vote.

### 7. SF493. Definition of Marriage - Senate.

Neuville Amendment. Since the courts in Hawaii have maintained that contracts between persons of the same sex shall be legally construed as "marriage," there has been much concern on the part of those who maintain that "marriage" can only be between persons of opposite sexes to have their understanding be officially stated as law. In the Senate Neuville first proposed an amendment to SF1908, the omnibus Health and Human Services bill, so as to insert in law that marriage shall be "only between persons of the opposite sex." The President of the Senate ruled this was not germane to health and human services, and the Senate upheld that ruling 37-27. Five days later Neuville tried again, this time proposing the same language in a tax bill. Now it passed 41-22. Though it seems that more than a dozen senators had been confused on the matter, LEA is overlooking that by using the second vote in this rating, favoring the Yes vote.



**8. SF1908. Definition of Marriage - House.**

Parliamentary Procedure. Amendment, Sviggum. SF1908 was the omnibus Health and Human Services bill. Like all of the omnibus bills it contains a host of provisions, some necessary, not all good, and not all bad. As the House received SF1908 from the Senate it had somehow had incorporated into it the amendments offered by Neuville as cited above. Apparently for the purpose of getting a recorded vote on this particular provision which defined marriage as a contract between persons of opposite sexes, Sviggum proposed an amendment on the House floor eliminating the language from SF1908. The vote was 24-105 against the amendment - and therefore for keeping the language in the bill. Those voting No thereby affirmed their desire to assert their belief in the traditional concept of the marriage contract. LEA favors a No vote on this proposed elimination.

**MORE AND MORE GOVERNMENT**

**9. HF2158. Local Government and Control.**

So slowly it seems almost unnoticed by the citizenry, expansion of control and regulation by super-government goes on. Three decades ago the Metropolitan Council began with four employees. Today, with a budget of about \$290,000,000, it has over 3000 employees. Now metro government is having its powers extended to control development plans in bordering non-metro counties. One bill doing this is HF2158, which became law, passing in the House 83-47, and in the Senate, 55-11. LEA believes these trends can lead to the demise of independent local government and eventually to unfriendly world government control. LEA chooses to use this particular bill as one example. LEA favors the No vote.

**10. HF2158. Government Spending.**

Amendment, Sviggum. The reason for high taxes is excessive government spending. Many attempts were made by some in the legislature to hold down spending. Polls show that these attempts reflect public opinion. LEA selected the vote on this proposed amendment for inclusion in this report because the purpose is so clear. The Sviggum proposal would have inserted in the Operation of State Government, Economic and Housing Development, bill these words: "Each general fund appropriation in this act shall be reduced by four percent for each fiscal year and the money shall be returned to the general fund and the taxpayers of the State of Minnesota." LEA favors a Yes vote. The amendment failed in the House, 61-68.

**11. HF892. Minimum Wage.**

Authors: Rukavina, Kelly R. This bill, vetoed by the Governor, would increase the minimum wage imposed on all employers in private business. Employers grossing more than \$500,000 per year would have to pay at least \$5.15 per hour; those grossing less, at least \$4.90 per hour. For many reasons, outlined in our annual reports for years, LEA has held that minimum wage laws are not good, and are counter productive of the perhaps worthy results their proponents desire. One attraction for lawmakers is that minimum wage increases may be effective election politics. LEA favors a No vote. The passage votes were 44-22 in the Senate; 90-43 in the House. (The essence of this bill was repassed in the August special session and, this time, with the Governor's signature, became law.)

**12. SF703. Voting By Mail.**

Authors: Scheid, Tunheim. The 1997 legislature had before it several bills pertaining to elections. One might consider them relatively

minor, such as under certain circumstances granting 16 year-olds full citizenship privileges, changing ways of registering voters, and regulating absentee voting. Some such bills were vetoed by the Governor. One not vetoed, and now law, extends voting by mail to certain municipal elections. LEA is using the vote on this bill in these 1997 evaluations, partly as a reminder that citizen participation is basic to our democracy, and that we should cherish and protect its credit. While plausible arguments can be made for voting by mail, especially in precincts of sparsely populated large geographic areas, voting by mail literally tends to discourage citizen political activity. However, of even more and practical concern to all of us, is the fact that in all of the proposals, some now on our law books, there is no provision for, or even mention of, means to control fraud, to which mail voting seems especially susceptible. SF703 passed the Senate 39-14 and the House 72-59. LEA favors a No vote.

**13. SF2; HF2. Stadium.**

Authors: Janezich (Terwilliger Amendment), Rest. Public financial support of professional athletics and public building of arenas and stadia to house them have stirred up unprecedented discussion in Minnesota in 1997. In keeping with its positions of generally opposing any public funding of private enterprise, and opposing government sponsorship of gambling, LEA looked with disfavor on all such proposals. In an October special session the Senate voted in favor of the Terwilliger version of the Janezich original stadium bill, 35-30. In the House, Representative Rest's stadium bill was defeated 29-100. LEA favors the No votes. No law came out of the October special session.

**14. Stadium Revisited - Senate.**

The legislature reconvened on November 13 to reconsider the stadium proposals. Because this issue has been of such intense and widespread public concern, LEA is using the votes in both special sessions in this report and evaluation. In the Senate, upon its reconvening motion was made by Senator Robertson to adjourn, sine die, which, if passed, would have effectively ended any further consideration. The motion lost 18-40. LEA favors a Yes vote. There was no other action in the senate.

**15. HF36. Stadium Revisited - House.**

Authors: Rest, Jennings. This bill embodied all the hopes of those Minnesota citizens who desire state government to assist, financially and otherwise, professional sports, especially the Twins. The bill was defeated 47-84. LEA favors a No vote. The public should recognize that on the stadium issue legislators were placed under tremendous pressures, either for or against the project, by other elected officials, by special financial interest lobbyists, and by their constituents. But they had to decide one way or the other - and they did.

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