



2012 Legislative Session

There are many important issues being considered by the legislature other than the ones in the headlines. There are literally thousands of bills in the legislative process each year, and hundreds that make it into law and become Public Acts. We are seeing hot button issues like the death penalty, medical marijuana, red light cameras and education reform. There are other things that are not in the news, often because they are technical, but at times they can have even more significance for families or businesses than the “big” issues. Detailed on the other side of this mailer are some great proposals that I look forward to supporting on behalf of our small businesses and self-employed residents.

I am convinced that with your input and support, we can address the most pressing needs of our community.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Linda Orange".

State Representative

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State Representative **LINDA ORANGE**

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Jobs for Mid-Size Companies

We created aggressive legislation last fall to support the efforts of small businesses across the state to expand and grow jobs. Now, we need to increase the number of businesses that qualify for hiring incentives and tax breaks. To do that, I support changing the definition of small business from 50 employees to 100 employees. That will greatly increase the number of businesses that can take advantage of these growth incentives. I'll fight to do all I can to help businesses get access to capital for equipment purchasing and improvements that will allow those businesses to grow and create jobs.

Employee Training

Owners of small and mid-sized businesses tell us that the ability to better train both existing and new employees is key to their ability to expand. More funds are needed for that training, and I am working to make those funds available. Currently, training costs are evenly split by the state and the employer. As we continue to climb out of the depths of the recession, we need to do what we can to help employers with a trained and educated workforce.

Health Insurance for Small Businesses

Small businesses consistently cite the high cost of health insurance as an impediment to expansion and job growth. That's why I will be supporting a bill allowing small businesses, including the self-employed, to purchase employee health care coverage through the state employee health plan. We can help businesses control these costs and doing so will strengthen and stimulate our economy.

