



Give the People Light and they will find their own way.

The Wisconsin Light

Health Workers Disease Prevention & Insurance Bills Become Law

[Madison]-State Representative Tim Carpenter (D-Milwaukee) on April 30, 1992, applauded Wisconsin Gov. Tommy Thompson's decision to sign into law a bill Carpenter called "an extremely important aid to those medical professionals working on the front lines in our battle against AIDS."

"I congratulate Governor Thompson on his decision to sign Assembly Bill 414 into law," Carpenter said. "This bill will be a tremendous benefit to those who work with an extensive number of AIDS and HIV-positive patients."

AB 414, authored by Rep. Carpenter, allocates \$50,000 to fund the purchase of devices designed to prevent accidental needle punctures in various health care settings. Carpenter wrote the bill with the help of the Wisconsin Federation of Nurses and Health Professionals and other interested groups.

The result, according to Carpenter, is a bill that will help prevent the accidental exposure of nurses to deadly bloodborne diseases such as AIDS and Hepatitis B.

"This law will allow medical professionals to continue their work with these patients without some of the apprehensions that have unfortunately become part of their working lives," Carpenter said.

Insurance Continuation Bill

In another matter, on May 5, Carpenter also praised Thompson's decision to allow an important insurance continuation provision in the State Budget to remain free from veto.

The provision allows insurance continuation coverage for 29 months while an HIV-infected person is on an unpaid medical leave of absence due to an HIV-related condition.

Federal law allows continuation coverage premium subsidies for 29 months, if a person suffered loss of employment due to a handicap, but Wisconsin law had only allowed coverage for up to 18 months. The Carpenter provision makes Wisconsin law consistent with federal law.

"This is an important and crucial change that will be a tremendous benefit to those with an HIV-related condition," Carpenter said. "I'm very happy with the Governor's decision to allow this proposal to remain in the budget."

"It is critical that an HIV-infected person know that they will have insurance coverage while they are on a leave of absence," Carpenter stated. "This provision will allow the peace of mind that is so necessary and important."

ACT UP Demands that Charges Be Brought Against Racine Officials

[Milwaukee]- After six months of waiting for justice for Dennis Hill, ACT UP Milwaukee has stepped up its campaign.

According to ACT UP, Hill's death in November, 1991, was precipitated by "negligent treatment at the hands of Racine, Wisconsin police. ACT UP is demanding that civil rights charges be brought against those Racine officials they say are responsible for Hill's death."

Hill, a person with advanced AIDS, was, according to ACT UP, picked up by Racine police last November 17 for a routine traffic offense. He was taken to the Racine County Jail and held there for two nights. When caregivers from the Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) picked Hill up at the Jail, he was severely ill and neglected, lying in his own feces and vomit and breathing with great difficulty according to those who saw him.

The MAP caregivers took Hill directly to a hospital where he died several days later. The FBI has investigated the case to ascertain if Hill's civil rights were violated.

ACT UP Milwaukee is expected to mount a demonstration similar to its one

Medical College of WI to Promote Safe Sex With \$3 Million Grant



EDWARD II — Isabella (Tilda Swinton) and Mortimer (Nigel Terry) appear in the film "Edward II." Wisconsin Light and In Step are sponsoring opening night benefits in Milwaukee and Madison. See page 9 for details.

Clarenbach Announces Candidacy For U.S. Congress in Second District

[Madison]- Declaring that "when it comes to change, actions speak louder than words," State Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), officially launched his campaign for Congress on Sunday, May 3, 1992 and released a list of nearly 2,000 supporters — The 1992 Club — who will urge him on.

Clarenbach, Speaker Pro Tem of the Wisconsin State Assembly, will seek the House seat held by incumbent Republican Scott Klug. His announcement came during a two-day tour of eight counties in the Second Congressional District.

Clarenbach, a staunch and long-time fighter for civil rights, charged that the incumbent has joined the ranks of conservative Republicans backing President Bush, while creating the false impression that he is a moderate and an outsider.

"Scott Klug may want us to think otherwise, but what he has spent most of the last two years doing is standing with the Bush Administration, defending the status quo. I have spent twenty years fighting for change," Clarenbach said.

Clarenbach pointed to significant health

care, environmental, economic and civil rights laws he has authored during 18 years in the State Assembly and to his advocacy of reproductive rights. Clarenbach is also the author of ever piece of Wisconsin legislation dealing with AIDS.

"As we look to the future, we look for change — and when it comes to change, actions speak louder than words," Clarenbach said.

Clarenbach's Platform

Clarenbach called for national health care reform, responsible federal budgeting and a shift from military to domestic priorities. He said Congress has become too embroiled in partisan bickering to pay attention to the real issues.

"The people who get results in politics are not the show horses, but the work horses," Clarenbach said, "not the ones with the snappy sound-bite solutions, but the ones who roll up their sleeves, learn the system and do the hard work it takes to make change happen."

"It's not how long you've served that counts; it's how well you've served," he said.

Clarenbach, 38, has compiled two decades of public service in Wisconsin. He has been elected to the State Assembly since 1974, after serving as a Dane County Board Supervisor and Madison city alderman from 1972-74.

He chairs the Assembly Special Committee on Reform of Health Insurance and the Agriculture Subcommittee on the Future of Family Farming. He is a member of the committees on Labor, Financial Institutions and Rules, and has been chosen Speaker Pro Tem of the Assembly since 1983.

Clarenbach has received national recognition for his work in helping those struggling against HIV/AIDS and for his fight on behalf of the civil rights of all people.

The 1992 Club — nearly 2,000 people from all walks of life who are demanding better representation, and who believe Clarenbach is the best candidate to provide it — is evidence of his broad-based support, Clarenbach said.

"Their growing ranks will form the grassroots backbone of this campaign," he said.

Clarenbach's two-day announcement schedule included appearances in Madison, Beaver Dam, Portage, Baraboo, Richland Center, Dodgeville, Darlington and Monroe.

[Milwaukee]- A new research program evaluating methods to support long-term consistent maintenance of safe sexual practices by Gay men has been launched by the Community Health Behavior Program of the department of psychiatry and mental health services at the Medical College of Wisconsin (MCW).

The community-based project is headed by nationally recognized psychologist Jeffrey Kelly, Ph.D., program director and MCW professor of psychiatry and mental health sciences.

The new five-year study will assist those homosexually-active men in Milwaukee who have experienced risk behavior lapses or find it difficult to maintain a safe sexual lifestyle. The Milwaukee AIDS Project (MAP) will collaborate with MCW in the work.

"Gay men have done an enormous job in changing risk behavior, and have made great progress in the fight against AIDS," said Kelly. "The focus of our program is to encourage and help men to maintain these changes on what may need to be a lifelong basis," he said.

\$3 Million Grant

The research project has been awarded \$3,029,000 from the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). With this new grant, research support totaling approximately \$10 million has been awarded for the varied AIDS projects being directed by Dr. Kelly at the MCW Community Health Behavior Program. MCW is one of a handful of centers doing extensive research in AIDS prevention.

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Stronger Hate Crimes Bill Signed Into Law

[Madison]- A bill to strengthen Wisconsin's law against crimes motivated by bigotry, sponsored by Rep. David Clarenbach (D-Madison), has been signed into law by Gov. Thompson.

The bill (AB 507) provides clearer standards for judges and juries to use in deliberating over "hate crimes" cases, according to Clarenbach. It amends a 1988 law which allows judges to impose additional penalties when a criminal selected their victim because of the victim's race, religion, disability or sexual orientation.

"Our police and prosecutors asked us for stronger tools to fight these insidious crimes, and the Legislature delivered," Clarenbach said. "I commend the Governor for signing AB 507."

The bill would clarify two aspects of the law: (1) hate crime penalties could be imposed even if minority status was not the sole reason for selection of the victim; and (2) being mistaken about the victim's minority status would not allow a defendant to escape the penalties.

Clarenbach predicted the change will result in more hate crimes convictions, because it removes doubts about the precise meaning of the law.

"Authorities around the state are strongly supporting the law. This bill will encourage and strengthen their enforcement efforts by telling judges and juries more clearly, exactly what constitutes a hate crime," Clarenbach said.

The neglect of basic human and economic needs in our society, Clarenbach noted, has made more and more innocent people — particularly members of minority groups — victims of desperately looking for scapegoats.

"It has never been more important to ensure that crimes arising from bigotry and intolerance are punished, so that people of all races, religions and lifestyles can live peaceably among their neighbors," Clarenbach said.