

THE JACOBS REPORT
GILDA Z. JACOBS
MICHIGAN SENATE
Assistant Democratic Floor Leader
FOURTEENTH DISTRICT

For Immediate Release
October 13, 2006

Contact: Matt Levin
(517) 373-7888

JACOBS & VAGNOZZI TO HOST BUSINESS FORUM

Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber Event Examines SBT

State Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs (D-Huntington Woods) and State Representative Aldo Vagnozzi (D-Farmington/Farmington Hills) will join the Farmington/ Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce in hosting a business forum from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m., Thursday, October 19, 2006 at the Farmington Community Library, 32737 W. 12 Mile Road, Farmington Hills.

Panelists will discuss remedies for replacement revenues for the Single Business Tax (SBT) which expires at the end of 2007. The SBT is responsible for contributing approximately \$2 billion to state coffers.

Panelists will include Tom Clay, Director of State Affairs, Citizens Research Council; Dr. Charles Ballard, Professor of Economics, Michigan State University; and David Wright, CPA, Boyes, Wright & Pittman Company, P.C. Moderating the panel will be Ara Topouzian, President/CEO, Farmington/Farmington Hills Chamber of Commerce. Sen. Jacobs and Rep. Vagnozzi will also participate in the discussion.

For more information, call 888/937-4453 or 517/373-1793.

SUIT AGAINST DOMESTIC PARTNER BENEFITS DISMISSED

Judge: Plaintiff Not Harmed by Policy

This week, Ingham Circuit Judge James Giddings threw out a lawsuit challenging the domestic partner benefits provided by Michigan State University (and other universities).

Judge Giddings said that the plaintiff, the American Family Association of Michigan, did not have standing to bring the suit since it could not demonstrate how its members would be harmed by the policy.

The association's suit asserts that the benefits—which are granted to domestic partners on the same basis as married couples—violates a constitutional amendment adopted in 2004 that bars same-sex marriages.

Attorneys representing the American Family Association said they will appeal the decision.

BIG TOBACCO DUMPS FLAVORED CIGARETTES

Pressure from 39 States Dooms *Blackjack Gin, Midnight Berry*

Thirty-nine states, including Michigan, have entered into a settlement with R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company to end the sale of candy-, fruit-, and alcohol-flavored cigarettes in the United States.

The Attorneys General of all the states opined that the advertising, marketing and promotion of flavored cigarettes was a violation of a prohibition on targeting youth in the 1998 tobacco Master Settlement Agreement.

The flavored cigarettes' marketing campaign set off alarms with its use of catchy names, appealing flavors, and snazzy packaging used to lure kids with delicious Scratch and Sniff promotional cards.

Under the settlement, Reynolds agreed to ban (in the United States only) its flavored brands, including Mandarin Mint, Mandalay Lime, Blackjack Gin, Cool Myst, and Midnight Berry. The agreement also restricts any attempts to market cigarettes holding a characterizing flavor other than tobacco or menthol.

WIT, WISDOM, ETC . . .

Quotables

“Forgiveness is the key to action and freedom.”

-Hannah Arendt

“Learn to value yourself, which means: to fight for your happiness.”

-Ayn Rand

Quote of the Week: Mike Ditka

“Before you can win, you have to believe you are worthy.”

All Michigan legislation can be tracked at <http://www.legislature.michigan.gov/>.

If you'd like to be removed from this distribution list, simply reply to this e-mail with “remove” in the subject header.

State Senator Gilda Jacobs represents the 14th Senate District, which includes Beverly Hills, Bingham Farms, Farmington, Farmington Hills, Ferndale, Franklin, Hazel Park, Huntington Woods, Lathrup Village, Oak Park, Pleasant Ridge, Royal Oak Township, Southfield, and Southfield Township. She is the Minority Vice Chair of the Families & Human Services Committee and the Economic Development, Small Business & Regulatory Reform Committee. She also serves on the Government Operations and Health Policy Committees.

Constituents of the 14th District may contact Senator Jacobs at sengjacobs@senate.michigan.gov or toll-free at 1-888-937-4453.

This newsletter is produced in single-space form in order to save paper and transmission costs.

####

Matthew J. Levin
Legislative Director
Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs

P.O. Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536
(517) 373-7888
mlevin@senate.michigan.gov