

Saving our Middle Class Society

We Know the Problem - It's Time for Solutions



Rep. David Bly

FIVE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A MIDDLE CLASS SOCIETY

- Safe, reliable transportation system
- Quality education at all levels
- Comprehensive health care
- Living wage jobs
- Clean, safe environment

The American middle class is losing ground financially and losing hope in what the future holds for themselves and their children:

- **Home foreclosures are setting new records**
- **Personal debt is off the charts**
- **Essentials like energy, health care, and food get more expensive by the day**
- **Our schools and roads are deteriorating**
- **Wages are stagnant while unemployment creeps up**

The American people want to know what we can do about our problems before it is too late. We can either let things go as they have been going, and say good-bye to our middle class society. Or, we can take the aggressive, positive action that is required to get us back on track.

The Middle Class Amendment

Our middle class society is so threatened that I believe we need bold action. That's why I have asked the Minnesota Legislature to consider a constitutional amendment that would make it clear that maintaining our middle class society is, and will continue to be, central to our policy making.

A constitutional amendment is enduring and very difficult to change. In my view, it is the best way to express our core value that the middle class is the backbone of our economy and of our democracy.

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A STRATEGY FOR REBUILDING THE MIDDLE CLASS

The globalization of our world is bringing success to some global businesses, but not to the American middle class. One of the reasons for this is that we simply don't have a comprehensive strategy for remaining a middle class society in the new world in which we live. Instead, we merely take the middle class for granted. We can no longer go on this way.



My strategy for maintaining our middle class society is to focus on these five building blocks: transportation, education, health care, jobs, and the environment. These are not "good ideas" that we pursue when the opportunity is right, and compromise other times. These are not things we "pick and choose" from, promoting one during one legislative session and another the next. Leave any of the five building blocks go, and we have serious problems in the foundation of our middle class society.



Only a comprehensive, enduring approach will keep us strong, democratic, and growing. We need the commitment that only a constitutional amendment can bring about.



FIVE BUILDING BLOCKS OF A MIDDLE CLASS SOCIETY

Safe and Reliable Transportation

Roads and bridges that are safe and less congested, and a 21st Century Transit system that provides travel options working Minnesotans need and deserve.

Quality Education at All Levels

From Early-Ed to Higher-Ed, the quality of our education system is perhaps the biggest factor that will dictate the quality of our workforce and middle-class society for generations to come.

Comprehensive Health Care

We need quality, affordable health care for every single Minnesotan – without it, middle-class families will continue to be squeezed by crushing health care costs

Living Wage Jobs

Inflation and cost-of-living increases have outpaced income growth for many middle-class workers. We need to invest in better paying jobs for hardworking Minnesotans

Clean Safe Environment

Energy and environment issues may be the most critical issues our country must face over the next several decades. We need to invest in clean water, air, and energy right now if we hope to avoid much larger problems down the road.



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