

Oberstar Democracy Project



Friends of Jim Oberstar
222 West 1st Street
Duluth, Minnesota
Phone: 218-723-8813
www.oberstar.org

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The 2006 Election

This year, I have a Republican opponent with some name recognition. Recognition for wanting to privatize Social Security. Recognition for supporting the failed Contract with America. Recognition for running one of the most negative campaigns in recent memory.

Rod Grams does not represent the values of working families of the 8th District. While in the Senate, Grams authored legislation to do away with Social Security as we know it and replace it with a privatized system..

According to MN Republican Party chair Ron Carey, "The 8th District is fertile ground for Rod's message

of hope and opportunity." The GOP is using Rod Grams for their own agenda. National Republican leaders are backing Grams because George Bush eked out 48% of the vote in Minnesota in 2004. They think that a well-funded Grams campaign will help defeat Amy Klobuchar for Senate and Mike Hatch for Governor. But the 8th District can be the cornerstone for a Democratic victory in Minnesota.

This district consists of 18 counties and 26,000 square miles. I need you to be my "eyes and ears" in your community. Your help is essential to a Democratic victory.

Together, we will win!

Campaign Field Staff

Don Ness, Campaign Manager
(218) 310-9041
don@oberstar.org

Alana Petersen, Political Director
(218) 213-4129
alana@oberstar.org

John Schadl, Communications Director
(218) 213-6533
john@oberstar.org

Melissa Samuelson, Field Director
(218) 330-3350
melissa@oberstar.org

Blake Chaffee, Southern Field Staff
(218) 213-4586
blake@oberstar.org

Erica Heikel, Arrowhead Field Staff
(218) 213-4749
erica@oberstar.org

Jerry Flaschberger, Iron Range Field Staff
(218) 213-4070
jerry@oberstar.org

Grams Watch



**Jim Oberstar Wants YOU
to help keep tabs on Rod Grams!**

Please volunteer to—

- ✓ Write letters to the editor of your local newspaper
- ✓ Monitor and tape televised news reports and radio programs about Jim Oberstar and Rod Grams
- ✓ Send in clippings of newspaper reports about Jim Oberstar and Rod Grams from your local newspaper
- ✓ Let Jim know when you hear that Grams or his campaign is in your community
- ✓ Call in to local radio talk shows
- ✓ Contribute to Internet blogs

To help out, please contact John Schadl at (218) 213-6533 or john@oberstar.org.

Medicare Part D

I opposed the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 because it fell astonishingly short of providing meaningful prescription drug coverage for seniors.

Medicare Part D is a special interest law that puts drug and insurance companies ahead of seniors. It expressly prohibits the federal government from negotiating with drug companies for the lowest possible drug prices for seniors. It denies seniors the choice of a simple, affordable, and guaranteed prescription drug benefit directly from Medicare.

Thanks to taxpayers, the big insurance companies will get more than \$400 million over the next 10 years to provide this coverage. According to the Congressional Budget Office, by 2015, Part D

Securing Air Travel

On February 8, 2005, the Department of Transportation presented a decision to the House Aviation Subcommittee that would clear the way for foreign interests to own and control U.S. airlines.

For the past 65 years, the law has required that U.S. citizens have actual control of U.S. airlines. This new decision would allow foreign interests to control all commercial decisions of a U.S. carrier's operations. Foreign investors could then decide which markets they will serve, what type of aircraft they will purchase, and from whom they will buy.

On June 13, I offered an amendment to block this rule change.

will balloon to almost one-fourth of the entire Medicare budget, a level that is clearly unsustainable in the future.

Advocates of the new Medicare Part D promised voters a prescription drug benefit with plenty of choice. The Republican lawmakers who created Part D insisted that it would offer the best of both worlds—a generous government subsidy combined with private-sector efficiency. Instead, it is proving a huge drain on taxpayers and a giant headache for elderly consumers, and it's giving both the public sector and the private sector a bad name.

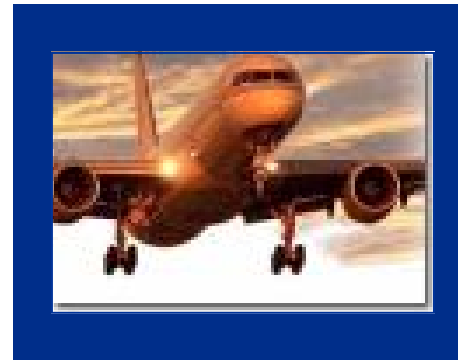
I co-sponsored the Medicare Informed Choice Act, which would have given seniors and people with disabilities an additional six months to determine what prescription drug plan is right for

H.R. 5575 delayed implementation of the DOT rule for one year—time necessary to allow Congress to determine whether changes in the law regarding foreign ownership of our nation's airlines are prudent. My amendment passed with a vote of 291 to 137.

Our nation's airlines are essential to our way of life. The DOT's newly proposed policy would make fundamental changes to our national aviation system and is contrary to current congressionally approved law. We must not allow unelected trade bureaucrats to manipulate the fate of U.S. aviation, an essential industry that fuels nearly 6% of our economic activity.

them. It would also allow beneficiaries to switch plans one time without facing a penalty. I also co-sponsored the Medicare Early Access Act of 2005, which provided early retirees and others between the ages of 55 and 64 the option of purchasing Medicare coverage. It provided for affordable health insurance for a vulnerable population while protecting the solvency and sustainability of the Medicare Trust Fund.

Future healthcare legislation must provide for realistic implementation timelines and greater administrative flexibility. The goal of any effort to lower the cost of prescription drugs should be to offer the greatest benefit to those who need it most. The responsibility of Congress is to serve the people whom we are elected to represent, not to protect private industry's profit margins.



On June 13, I appeared on the *Lou Dobbs Show* to discuss this proposed change and the amendment I authored. See my interview with Lou in its entirety at www.oberstar.org.

Be Engaged. Participate. Matter.

Contact Your Local DFL Unit

Aitkin County Chair:

Jake Niesen

(218) 697-8207

jmniesen@uslink.net

Beltrami County Chair:

Steve Nelson

srnelson@paulbunyan.net

Carlton County Chair:

Mike Sundin

(218) 879-3222

mlsundin1@aol.com

Cass County Chair:

Martha Johnson

(218) 547-3587

marthaj@uslink.net

Chisago County Chair:

April Boxeth

(651) 209-6167

a_boxeth@yahoo.com

Cook County Chair:

Tim Kennedy

(218) 387-1314

tkennedy@boreal.org

Crow Wing County Chair:

Carl Samuelson

(218) 568-4351

dfc@carlsamuelson.com

www.crowwingdfc.org

Hubbard County Chair:

Dick Longtine

(218) 732-5275

rlongtin@wcta.net

Isanti County Chair:

Ken Reine

(763) 552-2455

reine008@umn.edu

www.isanticountydfc.com

Itasca County Chair:

Richard Blake

(218) 327-3303

rkblake13@msn.com

Kanabec County Chair:

Lucille Schultz

(320) 679-1444

luci@ncis.com

Koochiching County Chair:

Joe Boyle

(218) 383-9864

sboyle@citilink.net

Lake County Chair:

Marlys Wisch

(218) 834-5988

mwisch@lakenet.com

Mille Lacs County Chair:

Steve Samuelson

(320) 982-1391

stevesam23@yahoo.com

Morrison County Chair:

Bob Keeton

(320) 575-2982

bkeeto@brainerd.net

Pine County Chair:

Tom Kurhajetz

(218) 372-3744

thomaskurhajetz@frontiernet.net

St. Louis County Chair:

Tom Marshall

(218) 728-1564

Wadena County Chair:

Diane Leaders

(218) 837-5597

leaders@wcta.net

DFL Endorsed State Senate Candidates

2: Rod Skoe

(218) 776-3420

sen.rod.skoe@senate.mn

3: Tom Saxhaug

(218) 326-8163

sen.tom.saxhaug@senate.mn

4: Mary Olson

(218) 444-6339

maolson@paulbunyan.net

olson4senate4.com

5: Dave Tomassoni

(218) 254-3430

6: Tom Bakk

(218) 666-5041

sen.tom.bakk@senate.mn

7: Yvonne Prettnier-Solon

(218) 727-3997

Democracy **In** Action.

8: Tony Lourey
(218) 496-5893
www.tonyloureyforsenate.org

10: Dan Skogen
(218) 924-4001
dandee@twecwb.com
www.danskogen.com

12: Terry Sluss
(218) 825-7560
tlsluss@charter.net
www.slussforsenate.com

16: Glenn Resman
(320) 294-5830

17: Rick Olseen
(651) 674-7510
olseenfour@msn.com

DFL Endorsed House Candidates

2B: Brita Sailer
(218) 732-5515
rep.brita.sailer@house.mn
www.sailerforhouse.com

3A: No endorsed candidate

3B: Loren Solberg
(218) 327-1292
rep.loren.solberg@house.mn

4A: Frank Moe
(218) 759-7085
votemoe@paulbunyan.net
www.frankmoe.org

4B: Ron Berry
(218) 547-3615
r_berry@arvig.net
www.berry4house.com

5A: Tom Rukavina
(218) 749-5690
rep.tom.rukavina@house.mn

5B: Tony Sertich
(218) 254-1936

6A: Dave Dill
(218) 993-2252
rep.david.dill@house.mn

6B: Mary Murphy
(218) 729-6399
rep.mary.murphy@house.mn

7A: Tom Huntley
(218) 724-6568

7B: Mike Jaros
(218) 727-0412
rep.mike.jaros@house.mn



8A: Bill Hilty
(320) 233-6626
rep.bill.hilty@house.mn

8B: Tim Faust
(320) 679-1870
tfaust59@yahoo.com

10B: Tim Nieminen
(218) 639-5033

12A: John Ward
(218) 838-7335
john@voteforward.net
www.voteforward.net

12B: Al Doty
(320) 584-8057
aldoty@mywdo.com
www.aldoty.com

16A: Gail Kulick-Jackson
(320) 983-4043
kuljack@frontiernet.net
www.gailkulickjackson.com

17A: Melissa Jabas
(763) 753-0591
melissa@melissajabas.org
www.melissajabas.org

17B: Jeremy Kalin
(651) 257-9861
jeremy@jeremykalin.com
www.jeremykalin.com

Jim Oberstar

WORKING for you 
for minnesota

E-mail _____

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____

Please contact me about—

The Oberstar Democracy Project

Volunteering

Traveling around MN to support Democrats

Placing a lawn sign in my yard

Writing a letter to the editor

Using my name and testimonial

Oberstar
Democracy Project

Please sign me up for—

The Oberstar Democracy Project

E-mail updates from Jim

Please share your story about Jim:
