

# REP. PHYLLIS KAHN

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# NEWS RELEASE

## Minnesota House of Representatives

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**July 1, 2009**

### **Five Months with One U.S. Senator? Kahn Says Never Again**

ST PAUL - With the disputed Senate election near conclusion, State Representative Phyllis Kahn (DFL - Minneapolis) said the State Legislature should begin looking at ways to improve election laws for future contested elections. In particular, Kahn said the Legislature should consider a bill she authored this session, which would provide a provisional election certificate to the winner of an administrative recount so that Minnesotans are not deprived of their equal representation in Congress.

“Minnesotans have had only one U.S. Senator for over five months and if Senator Coleman took this to the U.S. Supreme Court, it could have been much longer. This is just isn’t fair to the citizens of Minnesota,” said Kahn. “Providing a provisional certificate of election to the winner of the recount is a common sense remedy that would ensure this never happens again.”

Kahn’s bill, which was authored in early February, would allow a provisional election certificate to be presented to the winner of the state’s administrative recount. This would allow the provisional winner to begin serving while further legal challenges proceed. If a higher court reversed the decision, then the appropriate winner could be seated in Congress. Kahn said the benefit of this change in law would ensure Minnesotans have equal representation in Congress, as well as relieve pressure on the courts to move too quickly through the process.

“If this law had been in place, Franken could have received a provisional election certificate and been sworn in to office with all the other U.S. Senators in late January,” said Kahn. “I understand that people had issues with applying this change in law retroactively, but as we look back on this election, recount, and drawn out legal contest, it’s clear that this change in law would benefit Minnesotans.”

Kahn said she will press for a hearing on her bill when the Legislature convenes next session.