

5. What is the biggest issue facing your district and how will you help alleviate this issue?

Dahms: There are several major issues facing our district as well as the state. One issue is the MN Sure debacle which is the state's exchange for the Affordable Care Act. The individual health insurance has sky rocketed since the beginning of MN Sure in 2014. This is the third enrollment period and the individual market has increased, in some cases, two to three fold with deductibles that have been increased tenfold. This is unacceptable and the issue needs to be addressed. This can be done by doing a combination of various things. We switch from MN Sure to the Federal Exchange; ask for a variance in order to re-instate the Minnesota Comprehensive Health Program (state pool) and we can also allow for businesses such as yours to set up a small group program for their members.

2017 is also a budget year and we need to make sure that we pass a budget that lives within our means and invest in programs based on effectiveness and not on automatic increases. In this budget cycle we need to deal with transportation funding, funding for the disabled community, deal with the ever growing achievement gap in our high schools, and work with our colleges to develop programs that foster business partnerships between industry and the education community in order to provide post-secondary graduates that meet the needs of our current work force.

Kanne