

## Rep. Keith Ellison's Op-Ed for Matt Entenza

Written by

Tuesday, 26 January 2010 17:32

---

In 1987, when I sat down for my first day of law school at the U of M, a tall white guy was already sitting in the next chair. His name was Matt Entenza and I have been close to him ever since.

We were student activists together, our children were born around the same time, and we have always shared the values of generosity and inclusion.

In the 23 years I've known Matt, I've been proud to call him a friend and to see him become one of the finest progressive leaders in Minnesota. I endorsed Matt for governor in May because I know he would make a great Governor for everyone in Minnesota.

Matt always has stood up for equality, opportunity, and justice for all people. As a freshman legislator in 1995-96 he carried legislation to protect the Councils of Color, ensuring that Black, Latino and Asian Minnesotan voices were heard. Since then, he has been there time and again when rights were threatened or people neglected. Matt has authored hate crimes legislation and fought to protect human rights. He's also stood up in the legislature to make sure programs vital to our communities, like ESL and adult education were fully funded.

Matt not only has been a voice for our priorities – he's delivered on his promises. In 2005, as House DFL leader, Matt stood up to Gov. Pawlenty, bringing about the first meaningful education funding increase in years, restoring or preserving MinnesotaCare for 60,000 people, and making sure local governments got back substantial amounts of the aid funding Gov. Pawlenty had cut in 2003. This is still the only time Gov. Pawlenty has been convinced to concede to the legislature.

Matt knows how to fight—for himself and for us.

Matt not only can win – he will win. He has the right campaign and the right message to win and make Minnesota a place where everybody has an opportunity to succeed. I and others across the state have endorsed him because we know he'll take on the difficult issues we face while standing up for our shared priorities.

Please join with me and the many others around our state who have decided it's time to make Minnesota work again. On February 2, we need you to attend your precinct caucus in support of Matt Entenza. You can find out your precinct caucus location by calling the Entenza campaign office at (651) 647-1425 or visiting [www.dflcaucuses.org](http://www.dflcaucuses.org).

These tough times call for a leader we can count on; a leader who has been tested and proven he has what it takes to get things done even in the face of tough opposition. Matt has shown, time and again, that he is that kind of leader. Please show your support on February 2!