

Bill Faison

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Raleigh, November 30, 2011 – The NC General Assembly spent another \$150,000 on a three-day “mini” Special Session and achieved nothing at all worthwhile for the people of NC. Their plan is to spend \$1.1 million in total on similar Special Sessions spread from July of 2011 through April of 2012. They continue to focus on radical social issues, not jobs or the economy.

“During this session, the GOP passed a bill making it even harder to prove racial bias post-conviction in capital cases where the only remedy would be life in prison without parole. They also tried to “poke a stick” in the eye of the Democratic National Convention scheduled for Charlotte in September by telling Democrats how they could spend their money. Ultimately both will go down to vetoes,” said Rep. Bill Faison.

“The bigger issue is that at least 450,000 people (and probably closer to 700,000) are out of work. Our State’s unemployment rate is approximately 10.4 percent. The African American community has been hit harder, with an unemployment rate that is approximately 50 percent higher in our State,” said Faison.

It is widely reported that job growth in the private sector has not been fast enough to make up for public sector job losses. Even worse the Republican leadership in the NC Legislature passed a Budget firing 6,455 teachers, teachers’ aides and other State employees. They also cut Medicaid and SCHIP resulting in the loss of 15,415 private sector jobs. The combined economic effect caused an additional 12,292 private sector jobs loss. In effect, they fired 34,202 people.

“The African American middle class has been hit really hard in this economy. Even before the Great Recession, African American median (midpoint, not the average) net worth was about one tenth that of the white population (\$134,992 white to \$12,124 AA) and after the Great Recession it fell to about one twentieth (\$113,149 white to \$5,677 AA) according to a study published by the Pew Research Center. In this economy, the white population suffered a net worth loss of 16.18 percent; African Americans suffered a net worth loss of 53.18 percent,” continued Faison.

The great American equalizer and job escalator is education. Many African Americans used their degrees to successfully compete for highly desirable public sector jobs. The Recession has dramatically cut into government receipts. At the same time, the newly elected Republican Legislature has made the problem worse by cutting some taxes at a time when revenues were already down. The combination of reduced receipts and self inflicted financial wounds has resulted in them hurting people and the economy by eliminating jobs. The results, a heavier hit on middle class African Americans with very few private sector job options,” said Faison.

On average it now takes approximately 40 weeks to find a job if you lose one (longer than any time in the last 60 years) and when you do find a job you take a 17.5 percent cut in pay. Since African Americans have been hit harder by the Great Recession it only stands to reason that both the time it takes to find a job and pay cuts also hit African Americans harder.

“We face an uncertain economic future. The Federal Reserve has warned us that more likely than not we go into a double dip recession in 2012. The credit crisis in Europe threatens to spill over into our economy. So, this is the issue I am most concerned with at the present time,” said Faison. “With three children in college and one in high school, I am concerned about the future for all of our kids.”

“I am concerned about the ongoing investigations into the campaign of our Governor and I believe it has to be said that these first indictments look like serious issues. I cannot help but be concerned that our Governor is distracted from the real issues in our State which are the high unemployment and underemployment that threaten our future. She has not said publicly and officially that she is a candidate for Governor, leading me to question whether or not she will run. I understand there are on-going federal and state investigations. My goal, like that of many Democrats, is to win the House and the Governor’s office in order to stop the radical social agenda and focus on the economy, jobs and education. I have said this at every event where I have spoken. I have not said she should step aside or not run; that is something she will have to decide,” continued Faison.

“I will remain committed to the issues affecting our economy and will not be deterred. It is the single most important issue affecting all of us.”

For links to the plan and related information, go to www.BillFaison.com

Representative Faison represents NC House District 50, Northern Orange and Caswell Counties, and was first elected to the Legislature in 2005. Bill is a staunch supporter and advocate for jobs, education and health care. As a Single Dad, Bill knows how important it is to make good decisions now for results in the future. With three children in college and one in high school, Bill is focused on acting now to secure the future for all of our children.

As a legislator since 2005, he has championed rural high-speed internet access and in his role as Chairman of the House Democrats' Business Caucus, he has taken on the issue of rising unemployment in NC and is calling for a JOBS plan for the State, with a challenge to the GOP Leadership.

For information on the JOBS plan, supported by 35 of his colleagues in the NC House, go to www.BillFaison.com

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