

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - March 6, 2011

By Representative Bill Faison

There are some bad things happening at the Legislature. Education is under assault. Your tax deductions have been reduced for 2011. There are also some good things happening. Sex offenders will now be easier to identify and locate with on-line searches

Our Children's Education: The most important thing government does is to educate our children. The majority of taxes are spent on education. A certain amount of money is allocated to each child and sent to their school districts which must use this money to hire teachers, provide books and transportation among other items. For many years there has been a balance maintained between Public Schools and Charter Schools. The Republican Senate introduced legislation not only to remove the 100 limit cap on Charter Schools (a long standing part of their agenda) but also to allow Home Schoolers to qualify as Charter Schools. In practical terms it means money that would otherwise go to the Public Schools to educate our children may now go to Charter Schools and private individuals. Neither Charters nor Home Schoolers are required to provide transportation, meet testing standards, or do many other things that we all expect of public education.

Your Tax Deductions Taken Away: Most folks were upset last fall when we heard Congress was considering taking away some of our tax deductions at a time when folks needed every Federal tax break they could get. Eventually Congress used good sense and kept the Federal tax breaks in place. Now the N.C. House Republicans are taking your tax deductions. Rather than giving you State tax credit for the full amount of Federal Tax breaks, they are holding back 80% of the tax breaks in 2011. This means approximately \$440 million in additional taxes on North Carolinians in 2011. When the bill came before the House I argued for you and voted against the taxes. The bill passed with overwhelming Republican support.

Sex Offenders: We need to protect our children from Sex Offenders. It is easier to protect them when we know who the sex offenders are and where they live. I sponsored a bill to strengthen the Sex Offender Registry to make it easier to keep up with where sex offenders live and to make the information available to you on-line. Moreover, the bill keeps sex offenders from hiding by changing their names.

Electric Cars: America is stronger when we do not depend on foreign oil. I sponsored a bill to promote electric cars. This not only benefits our environment by reducing carbon emissions, it also strengthens our country by reducing the amount of foreign oil we must buy.

See the Bill and Contact Me: You can see the bills discussed here by going to www.ncleg.net and using the “Find Bills by Number” tool. The bills are S8, H124, H219, and H222. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.