

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature – May 29, 2011

By Representative Bill Faison

There is deep tension over the Budget cuts. Cutting 15,000 jobs is awful, made much worse by the fact that the money is readily available to keep the jobs. Moreover, the Republican leadership's decision to deprive almost 50,000 folks of Federal Unemployment benefits that costs the State nothing compounds partisan tensions.

Education in Our Community: I am committed to the education of all of our children. I still have two children in high school, one of whom goes to college this fall (I have both a son and a daughter already in college). Supporting kids in college is a challenge for all of us. Many kids need help paying for an education. I have donated more than \$21,000 to assist other kids in our community with their education. Last week I presented college scholarships to FFA students at Orange High and scholarships for the FFA Leadership Program in Washington, D.C. to Bartlett Yancey students (the same amount of money to both schools). I am doing all I can in Raleigh to help our teachers and our students.

The Budget: The Senate will roll out its Budget this Week. Nothing I have heard about the Senate's Budget sounds good for education or jobs. The Senate Republicans seem to be intent on cutting even more out of K-12 education than the House Republicans. Over the weekend I heard that five Democrats had cut a deal with the Republican leadership to vote for a Budget and against the Governor's veto. I am concerned that any deal excluding the Governor and the rest of the House Democrats will not protect our children's education.

JOBS: The last election was about jobs and education. I went to Raleigh looking for ways to give folks more and better jobs. I thought the Republican leadership was coming to town to do the same. So far I have not seen anything intended to create jobs. Worse they have cut out 15,000 jobs. Even a moderate Republican stood on the floor of the House last week to complain that the Republican majority was not getting the job done on JOBS. This Session has not been good for many things including jobs. First the Republican majority failed to give North Carolinians full advantage of the Federal tax cuts, imposing an additional \$440 million in taxes on us this tax year. Then they imposed another \$100 million in new taxes in the form of new government fees. Now they have come up with what they call a jobs

bill, giving everyone who qualifies a tax savings of up to a \$3,200. They say this money is for creating new jobs. The truth is that the deduction is way too small to motivate anyone to hire a full time employee. They still do not have a plan to create JOBS.

Contact Me: I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.