

Bill's Seat – A Report from the North Carolina Legislature - May 3, 2009

By Representative Bill Faison

This past week has been very busy. Over 1,568 new bills have been introduced in the House. Bills must pass both the House and Senate chambers to become law. Bills that do not pass one chamber by May 14 cannot be considered by the other. Committees are very busy considering whether to recommend bills for passage.

Discipline at School: Some folks still think that if children get out of line at school they should be paddled. Others think no one else has any business laying a hand on their child, and that other means of effective discipline are available including time-out and in-school-detention. This week the House passed a bill enabling a parent or guardian to tell schools in writing not paddle their child and the school must comply. The school is required to give parents or guardians a form with a choice at the beginning of the school year. Ultimately, control of how a child is disciplined is a decision a parent or guardian should make.

Physical Education: Kids need to burn off energy in a productive way in the course of the day. Physical education gives them that opportunity. Many schools do not have some of the facilities needed to provide a good physical education program. This week I voted for and the House passed a bill encouraging local boards of education to enter into agreements with counties and cities that will allow students to use public parks and recreational facilities for physical education in the course of the school day.

Nutritious Food at School: For several years we have been trying to improve the nutrition of food sold at school during the school day. This effort grows out of concern that too many children are overweight and on a collision course with diabetes and bad health. In a further effort to help look after our children I sponsored, voted for and the House passed a bill requiring that food sold during the school day must meet the Dietary Guidelines for Americans published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Cancer Cures: Many people in our community have worked long and hard raising money for Relay for Life. Some of the money they raise goes to find new drugs to treat cancer. We need to be sure that as new drugs come on line, all health insurance policies cover the costs of the new drugs as well as the old ones. I sponsored, voted for and the House passed a bill requiring that every health insurance policy cover all cancer drugs recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services.

See the Bills 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 H442, H1471, H900 and H896. I would really like to know what you think. Please contact me at Bill.Faison@ncleg.net to share your thoughts.