



**SENATOR JERRY TILLMAN
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP**

SENATE UPDATE

June 14, 2011



I Don't Buy the Governor's Plan

The governor revealed a lot with her veto on Sunday, June 12th. She would have you believe we should throw more money, (money we don't have) at a multitude of broken things. If money alone could have fixed what's broken, especially education, then 140 years of Democrat control would not have put us in the unenviable position of being 45th in the nation in education, and 2.5 billion dollars short in our state budget. Governor Perdue's answer is to find the money and take it from the taxpayer. They won't miss it. Never mind cutting spending, her friends need more funding. "We can't afford to make them angry. They might not vote for me, and I'm really going to need them next year..." Remember, all the spending and all the new programs under Democrat control have taken North Carolina to 45th in the nation in education. It will take more than money to fix these problems. Let's begin now to work together to reform, reorganize and start over. There is a better way and hopefully, enough Democrats will join us to do it. I believe they will. You will see education in N.C. assume its rightful place as a national leader.

Governor Perdue's Veto

The same governor who claims to champion job creation and public education has vetoed a bipartisan budget that does more for both causes than her own proposal. The only explanation for this veto and her statewide media campaign is that the governor believes it is more important to energize her liberal base than to govern responsibly. By placing politics ahead of the public interest, she engages in obstruction of the worst kind.

I believe you will see a bipartisan vote this week to override Governor Perdue's veto. That will do a lot to deflate her political balloon. We are going to quickly move North Carolina forward. We will see...

The Governor's Executive Order

We have directed our nonpartisan staff to study whether the governor's act is legal. We hope in a desperate effort to claim credit for what's going to occur because of the bipartisan budget, she is not putting the benefits of tens of thousands of unemployed North Carolinians at risk by

using a questionable legal gimmick. If she really thinks this is appropriate, she shamefully did nothing for seven weeks.

Make no mistake, we want these citizens to get their benefits. That's why we've voted twice to restore them.

Waiting on the governor

We're no longer waiting for Governor Perdue's veto of the state budget, which directs more money to K-12 classrooms than her own proposal. Still, she's been campaigning across the state, lambasting our efforts to reform education, reduce spending and cut taxes for job-creating private businesses.

Her veto is clearly a desperate attempt to score political points with her liberal base. She's decided poll numbers are more important than working with the General Assembly to find a reasonable solution to the state's financial troubles.

Choices in education

North Carolina parents will soon have more choice and control over their children's education. The Senate passed a compromise bill Thursday to eliminate the 100-school cap on public charter schools. There are only 99 public charter schools in North Carolina – not enough to meet the needs of about 20,000 students on a waiting list.

The Senate unanimously passed the conference report on SB 8. It is a simplified version of the original charter school bill, which passed the Senate with bipartisan support earlier this year.

Finally, North Carolina families will start getting the public education choices they deserve.

Malpractice reform

One of the highest and most hidden expenses in our broken health care system is the enormous cost of frivolous lawsuits and defensive medicine.

In North Carolina, doctors and medical personnel are forced to conduct unnecessary tests and procedures to avoid unfair lawsuits.

It's a lottery-like system that helps trial lawyers win big while driving doctors to other states and saddling taxpayers with millions of dollars in costs. Every North Carolinian pays for that, either through skyrocketing insurance rates or taxpayer-funded medical programs for the poor.

Last Thursday, we passed a bipartisan compromise bill that reforms the state's medical malpractice laws. A move that will drive down those costs, help attract new jobs and high-

quality medical personnel, and make health care more affordable and accessible for all North Carolinians.

Like the original version of Senate Bill 33, the conference report we passed sets a \$500,000 cap on the amount juries can award for pain and suffering and other “noneconomic damages.” But the new cap does not apply if a defendant’s act of gross negligence, fraud, intentional failure, malice, or reckless disregard for the rights of others results in someone’s death, disfigurement, permanent injury, or loss of a body part.

Patients still can recover all medical costs and lost income.

More than 25 other states have passed similar malpractice reform laws, and the number of physicians in many of those states has steadily increased as a result.

Serious efforts to reform our broken health care system must include malpractice reform, and I’m proud of the Senate for reaching a reasonable compromise.

“Founding Principles Act”

Yesterday, June 13th, the Senate Education Committee passed HB 588, the Founding Principles Act. This legislation will require that N.C. high schools teach a semester long course that focuses on the following:

A. America’s Founding Philosophy, to include at least the following:

1. The Creator-endowed inalienable rights of the people.
2. The purpose of government is to protect the inalienable rights of the people and to protect people from violence and fraud.
3. Structure of government, separation of powers, checks and balances.
4. Rule of law with frequent and free elections in a representative government.

B. America’s Founding Principles, to include at least the following:

1. Federalism, government as close to the people as possible.
2. Bill of Rights guaranteed freedoms of speech, press, religion, and peaceful assembly.
3. Private property rights and freedom of individual enterprise.
4. Innocent of any crime until proven guilty with rights of habeus corpus, no unreasonable searches or seizures, no cruel or unusual punishment, and right to a speedy trial by a jury of peers.
5. A virtuous and moral people educated in the philosophy and principles of government for a free people.
6. Constitutional limitations on government power to tax and spend and prompt payment of public debt.
7. Money with intrinsic value.

8. Right of people to keep and bear arms, strong defense capability, supremacy of civil authority over military.
9. Peace, commerce, and honest friendship with all nations, entangling alliances with none.
10. Eternal vigilance by “We the People.”

It is well past time that we assure high school students are well versed in the founding principles of our great nation, a free people, one we should celebrate daily.

Great documents such as the Declaration of Independence, the United States Constitution, the Federalist Papers, and writings of the founding fathers, must stay imbedded in the minds of all citizens. To forget is to err, and if we err here, our very foundation of freedom is at risk. I don't want to go there. Do You? It is my hope that HB 588 will pass on the Senate Floor today. I consider it an honor to speak for its passage today.

End in Sight?

The clock is ticking on this session of the North Carolina General Assembly. In all likelihood, we will finish this session by the end of this week. That makes for a very busy week of committee meetings and long sessions. We pledged to get the people's business done and we are doing just that. As taxpayers, you and I should be proud of the way we have worked hard and made significant accomplishments for our state. For example, we have:

- Submitted a bi-partisan budget that gets our financial house in order, closing a 2.5 billion dollar shortfall. In so doing, we also fully funded classroom teachers and teacher assistants, and funded for an additional 1,100 additional teachers to grades 1 through 3 to begin reducing class sizes.
- Fueled job growth. Ending the sales tax hike and providing a \$50,000 tax exemption for businesses will return billions to the pockets of North Carolina citizens and businesses and help the private sector create thousands of new jobs, economists say.
- Kept our promise to end a nearly \$1 billion sales tax hike. This money will stay in the hands of our hardworking citizens and businesses.

Keeping promises is unheard of in politics. We are keeping ours. Our state was in a huge financial hole when we came to Raleigh. As this session winds down, we can point to many positive steps we have taken to create an environment for job growth, education reform, and the right-sizing of state government. Will we finish this week? We will see...

Quote

“All it takes for evil to win is for good men to do nothing.”

Senator Jerry Tillman can be reached on Facebook

Are you on Facebook?

You can reach Senator Jerry Tillman by clicking this link.

<http://www.facebook.com/jerrywtillman>

Once you get to Jerry's page, just hit the like button at the top of the page and you'll start getting updates during the week.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can sign up for an account so you can start getting Jerry's updates.

Then tell your friends and neighbors who might want to know what Jerry is doing in Raleigh for the folks in Randolph and Montgomery counties.

Again, just click:

<http://www.facebook.com/jerrywtillman>

To connect today.

You Can Follow Senator Tillman on Twitter

Go to <http://www.twitter.com/jerrytillman> and sign up to follow Senator Tillman.

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