



The Senate Connection

Connecting Davie and Rowan Counties with news from the
Office of Senator Andrew Brock

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2009-2010 Budget News

This week at the North Carolina General Assembly Republican leaders once again offered possible spending cuts to balance the state budget without raising taxes on North Carolina families and small businesses.

The Republican proposal includes \$280 million in matching funds from using \$70 million of money currently being funded through the Golden Leaf foundation; the 3-1 match could be used to help plug the budget hole. Another proposal would expand charter school and receive federal grants; the savings for the state would be \$100 million. These along with many other items provided a menu of options to raise or save \$633 million and allow us to adopt a budget without placing greater burden on North Carolina taxpayers.

Democrats continue their closed door meeting on the state budget. They have yet to release a spending plan but have acknowledged that they plan to spend \$20.3 billion in the state budget including federal stimulus money. They also plan to hike taxes by \$990 million.

Republicans have argued that before Democrats place the burden of \$1 billion or more in new taxes on the backs of North Carolina families and small businesses, they should release their spending plan. Taxpayers ought to know how their money will be spent in advance of being asked to foot the bill for new state spending. If Democrats are confident that no waste will be found in their spending plan, then they should be anxious to make their plan public.



National Healthcare Program

On Wednesday, President Obama visited Raleigh in an effort to rally support for a government takeover of health care. Just last week, Democratic Governor Beverly Perdue attended the summer meeting of the National Governor's Association for a discussion of national health care policy and expressed her concerns that a national health care overhaul will leave states footing the bill. Perdue said in a statement at the time, "We are all hungry for a solution, but the absolute deal breaker for me as governor is a federal plan that shifts cost to the states." ("Purdue's stand on health plan: Don't burden states," *News and Observer*, 07/22/09) However, this week she was on hand to cheer for national Democrats plans for nationalized health care.

One may question what Governor Perdue has learned since last week to assuage her concerns that a national health care overhaul would cause further problems to a state budget Democrats have yet to agree on nearly a month past the original deadline.

Nation Health Care Plan continued)

Like many North Carolinians I am concerned that the national health care overhaul envisioned by the President will result in greater burdens to families, small business, and state government. If Governor Perdue has learned something to convince her that the national Democrats' health care experiment will lower costs for North Carolinians and not cause further problems to the state budget, she should share that information with the people of North Carolina. We are four weeks into the fiscal year without a state budget; we cannot afford to have state government, meaning state taxpayers, foot more of the bill for health care costs. Governor Perdue and legislative Democrats should focus on adopting a balanced state budget that does not raise taxes on struggling North Carolina families and businesses.



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