



The Senate Connection

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

1119 Legislative Building, Raleigh NC, 27601-2808

Phone: (919) 715-0690

Email: AndrewB@ncleg.com

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We want to hear from you

Should the Davie County School Board be reorganized into a 7 member council with 1 representative from each elementary school district and 1 at large member?

Please call or email me at my office with your opinion, whether you support or oppose the idea!

“Obama-Care” straining our State

This week at the General Assembly, Senate Republican Leader Phil Berger called a press conference with fellow Senate and House Republicans to discuss how the federal health care law is affecting North Carolina. As part of the federal health care law passed earlier this year, the federal government set aside \$5 billion for states that set up temporary high-risk insurance pools by July 1. North Carolina already maintains a high risk insurance pool at the state level. In April, U.S. Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius told states they had until the end of April to decide whether they would create a new a federal high-risk pool, operate a federal pool along side an existing state pool, or opt out of the program altogether. In response, 18 governors across the country decided to opt out choosing to forgo federal money to set up a federal high-risk pool because of concerns that these pools represent another unfunded federal mandate that will strain state budgets and leave state taxpayers to pay future deficits from the program. Governor Bev Perdue sent a letter to HHS announcing her decision to participate in the program by setting up a federal high-risk pool to run in conjunction with the state pool. Industry analysts predict the federal program will cost as much as eight times as much as what has been allocated by the Obama administration. (“[ObamaCare's Fuzzy Math: High Risk Pools Will Cost 8 Times What Is Budgeted](#),” *Forbes.com*, 5/12/10)



At a time when North Carolinians worry about the future of their health care coverage, we cannot afford for the Governor or the Attorney General to be unengaged or reckless in their decision-making. We need leaders who understand the problems the state is facing and have the courage to make the right decisions for North Carolina, not Washington, D.C. Most importantly, we need public servants who are willing to listen to the voice of the people.

The Democratic Budget Update

The state budget still remains in the hands of a conference committee made up primarily of Democratic members of the Senate and House. As serious concerns remain about the \$450 million of the expected revenue for 2010-2011 in federal money that may not be sent, there has been no resolution from Washington. As we already know the state will be facing a \$3 billion shortfall in the budget next year, we cannot afford to put ourselves further in a hole this year. The latest possibility being floated by Democrats is that the conference committee will craft a budget with a contingency plan in place and sent to the Governor without going back before other committees and both houses of the General Assembly to identify possible cuts. Stay tuned for further updates.

Charter School Expansion

This Thursday Democrats once again refused to support expansion of charter schools by lifting the statewide cap on charters currently set at 100. Senator Eddie Goodall (R-Union) offered an [amendment](#) to [S1201](#) that would have lifted that cap. However, 26 Democrats voted to block the amendment while 18 Republicans were joined by 2 Democrats in supporting charter schools.

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