



Representative W. David Guice
North Carolina House of Representatives
District 113

North Carolina House works on a wide variety of issues.

February 14, 2011

Greetings from Raleigh!

Dear Constituent,

We have been busy the first two weeks of this session in the North Carolina General Assembly. There are many important issues facing us in North Carolina and we have started to tackle them right out of the gate. My goal still remains to keep you updated with as much information as possible - as frequently as possible. This is important to me and my commitment to you.



In my last update to you I briefly talked about House Bill 2, which is an act to protect the freedom to choose health care and health insurance. As you will recall this legislation was filed in response to the healthcare reform legislation that was passed last year by the United States Congress. After a lively debate this bill passed the North Carolina House by a final vote of 66-50. It has been read in the North Carolina Senate and is currently in the Senate Judiciary Committee. If this legislation passes the Senate and is signed by the Governor it will make North Carolina a plaintiff, with twenty-eight other states, in federal lawsuits challenging the constitutionality of the "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act." The consensus is that this federal mandate will have a severely negative impact on small businesses and job creation. It is important that individuals and small business leaders have the opportunity to make their own healthcare decisions. This freedom of choice includes enrolling in insurance plans. These individuals' actions must not be directed by government. It has always been and continues to be my belief that we must support our small business leaders and allow them the freedom to make decisions that will positively impact their businesses and create jobs throughout North Carolina.

I had the pleasure of sponsoring House Resolution 10, which honors the founders of Transylvania County on the 150th anniversary of the county's founding. Transylvania County is my home and I am humbled to represent the people of District 113 in the North Carolina House of Representatives. I look forward to attending the kick-off festivities on Tuesday evening as well.

I want to talk with you for a few minutes about Senate Bill 13, which has now passed both the North Carolina House and the North Carolina Senate. This legislation is entitled the "Balanced Budget Act of 2011" and it directs the Governor and the Director of the Office of State Budget and Management to reduce recurring expenditures by at least \$400,000,000. These expense reductions will apply to the current budget year that ends on June 30, 2011. It is the hope of many members of the General Assembly, including myself, that by capturing these funds now we will have more flexibility as we move into writing the upcoming budget.

On top of these recurring expense reductions this legislation also proposes several cash transfers from different funds throughout state government. These transfers were considered carefully as not to negatively impact our state. There was much lively debate on this piece of legislation on the floor of the North Carolina House. Emotions ran high and members on both sides of the aisle passionately defended their positions on this issue. It is important to me that we look at every dollar we appropriate carefully and ensure that those dollars are being used wisely. The task we face ahead is going to be difficult and arduous; however, I believe by working together we can get the job done. As the debate raged over this legislation one thought continually ran through my head; if we cannot agree on these transfers and if we cannot do the work that needs to be done right now, we are going to have trouble ahead as we work to close a nearly \$3.7 billion dollar general fund shortfall. Until the May revenue projections come out we truly do not know the entire scope of the budget deficit we face as a state. I encourage each of you to visit the North Carolina General Assembly's website, www.ncleg.net, and search for Senate Bill 13. When dealing with a complex issue such as the state budget, there are many opportunities for mis-information and confusion. It is important to me that you have accurate information. Please visit the General Assembly's website often to receive up-to-date information.

As you can tell and as you know, there are many important issues facing us as a state. I will do my best to keep you informed and updated on what is happening in the North Carolina House and indeed, all of the North Carolina General Assembly. It is important to me that you know what is going on throughout these historic days. As the Co-Chair of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Justice and Public Safety my days are much busier than last session; however, it is important to me that I remain engaged with what is going on back home in District 113. Please keep your thoughts, comments, questions and feedback coming my way. Also, when you are in Raleigh please stop by the office.

I am humbled, as always, to represent you the people of District 113. I know that

we can make a difference in North Carolina. I know that we can, once again, put our state on a strong financial footing for this generation and generations to come. It will take some tough decisions and I am willing to listen as we work through this process. Thank you once again for this opportunity and I look forward to working with you in the future!

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