



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



**Legislative Update Four – Short Session**  
**June 6, 2010**

**Brevard, North Carolina** – I want to talk with you this week about the budget that passed the North Carolina House of Representatives this past week. This budget did not have my support for various reasons and I would like to outline some of those for you. First let me say that I believe even stronger today that North Carolina needs new direction. The people of North Carolina deserve better and I hope that by outlining the key points below you will agree.

The budget passed by the North Carolina House of Representatives totals nearly \$20.4 billion dollars. Each and every year our budget increases in North Carolina. So, let me ask you a question people of District 113. Are you better off than you were ten years ago? Are you better off than you were five years ago? Are you better off than you were last year? Our statewide dropout rate remains high, poverty remains high, unemployment remains high and a budget continues to be written without defined priorities.

We were able to get several amendments attached to the overall appropriations legislation that will benefit the people of North Carolina. For starters an amendment passed that will eliminate end-of-course exams for US History, Civics/ Economics and Physical Science. End-of-Course exams are not required in these subjects by the No Child Left Behind Act. The funds that will be saved through the elimination of these tests will be re-directed to the classroom to help teachers purchase needed supplies which is approximately 2.1 million dollars. Additionally, an amendment was passed that requires Morehead-Cain and Park scholarships for non-North Carolina residents to be paid at out-of-state tuition levels. It is estimated that this will save North Carolina taxpayers approximately \$6 million dollars annually. Golden parachutes for state employees were also eliminated through an amendment that passed the House last week.

This week we learned that the State Health Plan will see a \$400-\$500 million dollar shortfall late next year or early 2012. Increased medical costs have led to this deficit and both deductibles and co-payments have been raised for state employees along with dependent coverage having increased premiums. The leadership in the North Carolina House of Representatives took no action to begin dealing with this issue.

The North Carolina Constitution requires that a balanced budget be passed by the General Assembly and signed by the Governor each year. My friends what the North Carolina House passed last week, in my opinion is not a balanced budget. Chief budget writers approved a decision to allow nearly \$492 million dollars to be written into the budget without knowing if it is actually there or not. If these funds do not flow into our state from the federal government a special session might be called to address this issue at a later date. The people of North Carolina deserve better.

I did not support this appropriations legislation and will not support it in the future as we have not identified those priorities that matter to the people of North Carolina. Once we set these priorities we will be able to make funding decisions and truly move our state forward into the future. I do not believe that the leadership in the North Carolina House of Representatives did anything to improve the lives of the people of North Carolina.

The budget now heads to a conference committee which will have members from both the North Carolina Senate and the North Carolina House of Representatives. I will keep you posted on the progress of this legislation. I know that by working together we can truly create a strong future for the people of North Carolina. I am humbled each day to represent you, the people of District 113, in the North Carolina House of Representatives. Thank you so much for this opportunity. Please continue to contact my office with your questions and concerns.

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