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HEALTH

Health care for Floridians was amongst my major priorities during the session. Much of this session's health care discussions, however, focused on some members' desire to block certain requirements under the new federal health care reform law. To my dismay, a proposed constitutional amendment on this issue will appear on the November ballot.

The topic of women's reproductive rights surfaced in the final days of the session. I opposed a final version of House Bill 1143, which included two controversial components: a statutory ban on health insurance "mandates" and a provision that requires a woman to undergo and view an ultrasound before having an abortion during the first trimester. Thankfully, Governor Charlie Crist has vetoed this legislation.

The Legislature also held a series of discussions regarding a major overhaul of Medicaid. The concept was widely criticized by doctors, hospitals and advocates. The Senate did not take up the legislation.

REDISTRICTING

I am proud to have led the debate against House Joint Resolution 7231, a proposed constitutional amendment regarding the establishment of legislative and congressional districts.

If approved by the voters this November, advocates of the constitutional amendment claim it would clarify questions and legal concerns with Amendments 5 and 6, two so-called "FairDistrict" initiatives already approved for the November 2010 ballot. In my view, HJR 7231 isn't necessary and would severely undercut the FairDistricts initiatives, which are placed on the ballot after 1.7 million Floridians signed petitions seeking to reform Florida's controversial reapportionment process.

Dwayne Taylor

State Representative District 27

DWAYNE TAYLOR

"Your Voice in the Florida House"

In this issue:

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- Redistricting
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Dear Friends and Neighbors:

Representing your interests in the Florida House of Representatives continues to be a welcomed challenge and a rewarding privilege. I appreciate your vote of confidence and I enjoy serving House District 27.

As many of you know, while much of the country is recovering from the recession, Florida continues to face many economic hurdles. Therefore, during the 2010 legislative session, my colleagues and I focused much of our attention on economic development and job creation. In addition, we confronted a number of issues important to our community, including Florida's budget, education,and healthcare of Floridians.

I hope you find this legislative update to be a useful source of information on the 2010 session. If you have any questions or would like to discuss any of the issues, please call my office or send me an email. As always, if there is anything that I can assist you with, please contact my office.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to represent you.

Sincerely,

State Representative Dwayne L. Taylor
Florida House District 27

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Committee /Council Membership

Health Care Services Policy Committee — Democratic Ranking Member

General Government Policy Council

Insurance, Business & Financial Affairs Policy Committee

Joint Legislative Auditing Committee

Roads, Bridges & Ports Policy Committee

BUDGET

The Legislature began the session facing a $3 billion shortfall. Fortunately, Our state was able to rely upon another $2.3 billion in federal stimulus money approved by President Obama and Congress along with another $270 million in assistance that Congress is expected to approve.

I believe that the budget makes college more expensive, makes state roads more crowded, doesn't improve health options for all people, and fails to make job creation the top priority.

Therefore, I voted against the $70.4 billion spending plan, and I have urged Governor Charlie Crist to veto at least portions of the financial package.

ECONOMIC GROWTH

I was proud this session to support new policies to promote the recovery of our state's economy.

It was important to meet the expectations of Florida's families and businesses. Therefore, I supported legislation to keep Floridians working, prevent layoffs, and to bring a measure of economic stability.

I supported various efforts that help Florida consumers, including a reinstatement of Florida's back-to-school sales tax holiday that benefits Florida's families. The tax holiday provides a one-time, three-day sales tax holiday for clothing and other school supplies purchased from August 13-15, 2010.

During session, I supported legislation that held down a dramatic increase in unemployment tax rates for businesses for the next two years.

Legislation was also passed on a $200 million jobs package (over 3 years) that is designed to make Florida more economically competitive and to encourage companies to invest in our state and hire Floridians.

ENERGY

Throughout the legislative session, I supported policies to promote the development of renewable energy resources. To encourage development of new markets for sustainable and renewable energy, I supported smart investments in important public works projects in communities throughout the state.

I also supported Property Assessed Clean Energy (PACE) financing, which gives local governments the flexibility to create programs to lend funds that homeowners or businesses can use to pay for improvements such as solar panels, high-efficiency water heaters, and storm hardening for their homes.

CENSUS

In addition to providing insight into the population, the census guides critical decisions on the national, state and local levels.

The Florida House of Representatives is helping to achieve a complete and accurate count through www.myfloridacensus.gov. The website allows Floridians to share information about the census in communities throughout Florida. In turn, the Florida House of Representatives works with the U.S. Census Bureau to account for streets, neighborhoods, and communities that may otherwise be missed in the 2010 Census.

Every year, the federal government allocates more than $400 billion to state, local, and tribal governments based on census data. Every additional Floridian counted is worth approximately $1,500 per year in additional federal funding. Census data also determines congressional representation and guides local decision-makers on where to build new roads, hospitals, childcare and senior citizen centers, schools and more.

GOOD GOVERNMENT & ELECTIONS

During the 2010 session, the Legislature considered several important measures to combat public corruption.

Amongst these efforts included a bill to allow for the prosecution of public servants who purposefully fail to disclose a financial interest or a future financial benefit. Although few steps were taken during the 2010 session to expand the arsenal available to the front line prosecutors and investigators fighting those who breach the public's trust; I believe that we could have done more to restore voter confidence, close loopholes in the elections statutes, and protect voters' rights.

I supported a proposed constitutional amendment that sought to prevent last-minute backroom budget and legislative deals that avoid public input and scrutiny.

I am disappointed that a bill did not pass to amend the state constitution to require budget documents to be user friendly and easier to understand.

EDUCATION

I believe that improving public education is the first step toward creating high-wage jobs and a quality workforce that the 21st Century economy demands.

The current budget increases the average per-student spending by one dollar and 22 cents. The budget also allows for university tuition hikes of up to 15 percent, just as it cuts scholarship awards under Bright Futures.

Fortunately, since the passage of the Class Size Reduction Amendment, schools are less crowded. In November voters will get the chance to vote again on this important class size initiative. Senate Bill 6 drew widespread attention and criticism from across the state for how it would have altered public school teacher benefits. Thankfully, Governor Crist vetoed this bill.

Governor Crist also signed Senate Bill 4, a bipartisan measure that raises education standards and improves accountability. SB 4 phases out the high school Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test in math, science and writing, and it introduces end-of-course exams in Algebra 1, Geometry and Biology 1.

This newsletter was paid for and approved by the Florida House of Representatives.