

05/25/2017

Greetings Fortieth District!

Now that the first half of the 110th is adjourned, "The Loop" going forward will contain various bills covered this legislative session, topics of interests and perhaps updates not only here in the 40th, but the great state of Tennessee and Our Nation.

This Memorial Day weekend marks the start of the summer season at area state parks, lakes, swimming pools and all things outdoors. As we make plans for this weekend with family and friends, make it a point to reflect and be grateful for the many souls who were ready to guard, ready to defend and who ultimately gave their lives for the liberties we experience today. Memorial Day is remembering and honoring all Americans who died while in Military Service. Have a wonderful and safe holiday weekend wherever it may take you.

Congratulations Graduates

Every year Senator Mae Beavers and I take the valedictorians and salutatorians out to dinner. Thank you to all the seniors that put the hard work in and graduated this year. I look forward to seeing you all around the 40th.

Tennessee's Lawsuit Challenging the Refugee Resettlement Program Filed

In light of the oral arguments taking place dealing with President Trump's blocked executive order from countries that pose a high terror risk, an update on Tennessee's Lawsuit Challenging the Refugee Resettlement Program is a discussion of merit indeed.

With activist judges in the state of Washington, Hawaii, and Maryland using politics instead of law to stop President Trump's Executive Order regarding the refugee resettlement program, Tennessee's constitutional challenge to the program could not come at a better time. Just to recap SJR467, the joint resolution that I sponsored in the House and Sen. Mark Norris sponsored in the Senate, it was the first step in securing legal representation to address an issue, which I believe exemplifies the extent to which Tennessee's sovereignty has been eroded by federal intrusion. While our state's Attorney General Slatery declined to file a lawsuit on behalf of the citizens of this great state, he did agree to delegate his constitutional and statutory authority to the legislature to sue on behalf of Tennessee.

I was part of the team that interviewed and selected the Thomas More Law Center, a national public interest firm, chosen to represent our state without cost. Our lawsuit was filed on March 13, 2017. Like many of you, I had plenty of questions about the status of our lawsuit after reading that the Department of Justice will try to have the suit dismissed.

Attorney Richard Thompson, President and Chief Counsel of the Thomas More Law Center, forewarned us that the federal government would try to dismiss the suit, a move which I now understand is almost like standard operating procedure for the federal government. I checked in with Mr. Thompson recently about the process of our suit and here is what he told me:

"The lengthy legal process has started. As predicted, the Federal Government is following its standard operating procedure in cases like ours. Its motion to dismiss our case must be filed by June 1, 2017. We will then have 28 days to respond. After that, the Government has 7 days to reply to our response and we have 10 days to file what is called a sur-reply. Once all these initial pleadings are filed, the court will most likely schedule oral arguments on the motion to dismiss."

I have full confidence that Thomas More brings the same commitment and passion as I do for asserting our state's sovereign rights pursuant to the Tenth Amendment. In 2012, the U.S. Supreme Court said that, "states are separate and independent sovereigns - sometimes they have to act like it."

And that is exactly what we are working to do.

To stay the course, should this case come before The Supreme Court, is work worth doing and one we must not grow weary in doing. I will continue to keep you in the Loop on this very important case.

Bill Highlight of the Week

House Bill 287, among other things requires schools to teach principles of freedom from our nation's founding documents. HB287 designates September 17, Constitution Day, as "Celebrate Freedom Week" in our public schools. Hopefully students will learn more about the original intent of our Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Declaration of Independence, plus the lives, fortunes and sacred honor forfeited for the cause of freedom. Those who cannot learn from history are doomed to repeat it. And that's the truth!

Coming Events

Lancaster Independence Day Parade - Parade line-up time is 5:00pm; start time is 6:00pm.

Coffee Conversations will resume in September.

I will see you out and about in the Fabulous Fortieth District!

Blessings,  
Terri Lynn