

August 15, 2011 - The "Loop"

Recently, I have met with officials in the Haslam Administration to continue work on HB210. Called "The Death Tax" or the Inheritance Tax, this is a bill that has been important to me since the beginning of my service in the Tennessee General Assembly. My bill will reduce the death tax immediately with the objective to abolish it and bury it for good once and for all!

Although heirs to estates are often happy to receive the money passed on to them from their family, they fail to realize how much money government has stolen from their deceased relative. Yes I said stolen, for this is money that an estate has already been repeatedly taxed on while it was being earned. This tax penalizes you for working hard, saving as much as you can, investing wisely, and providing for your family and your heirs. Family owned small businesses, farms and ranches are the most vulnerable targets of this morally wrong tax because the law doesn't differentiate between people and their businesses. When the full value of a business' assets, such as equipment and property, are included in someone's estate, many are forced to sell needed assets just to write a check to the State of Tennessee and the Internal Revenue Service. It is revolting that government has chosen this tax to enrich their pockets. I will keep you informed as I move forward on this fight against a "tax" that must die!

Early this week, I had the honor of meeting with the new Assistant Commissioner for the Department of Labor and Workforce, Iliff McMahan. The purpose of the meeting was to bring to his attention the facilities that are already stellar here in our district, as well as, the importance of creating more jobs here rural Tennessee. You have heard it said, the "squeaky wheel gets the grease?" that is what you, the folks of the fortieth district, hired me to do, be your voice. A survey of corporate CEO's by Chief Executive Magazine ranked Tennessee the 4th best state in the U.S. for business. Part of Governor Haslam's Jobs4TN initiative is to grow the job force through existing companies and to bring new companies to rural Tennessee as well. Meeting with regional director Rebecca Smith of the Upper Cumberland Business Development Division proved positive and very productive. Bringing jobs to rural Tennessee is a teamwork effort that involves local and state officials to dial into all the resources made available. At the end of the day it's all about, how many jobs will this create. Firmly believing government does not create those jobs, I work hard to prevent government from getting in the way in order to let business do what they do best, make a profit so they can hire and create jobs. When local business is successful we as a community are blessed as well.

School is in full swing now. Visiting my school administrator in two of my counties again confirmed the need to reform or repeal the No Child Left Behind. Tennessee is on the right track by sending a waiver to Washington to revisit this federal issue. More emphasis on teaching, instead of the never ending paper work and unrealistic benchmarks would be a breath of fresh air to those in the classroom and in the school office.

Honoring our children who have been recognized for extraordinary talents gave me the privilege to present a proclamation to Brooklyn Driver for her artwork that was selected 2nd place on a national level. Encouraging our kids to engage and use their God given talent for good, is just one of the many blessings I get to take part in as being your State Representative. It is also a pleasure to donate new US Flags to our schools. Thankfully we still recite "I Pledge of Allegiance... One Nation Under God," in the 40th district. May this tradition remain strong! Donating two new US flags to Carthage Elementary School made for the ending of a great week.

And last but certainly not least, I was reminded how short and unpredictable life is. Not being able to attend the memorial service I recorded a song for the family. One of the lines, "When death comes to call on you, will He know your name too?"

See you later, Uncle Roy. I already miss you dearly.

Blessings,  
Terri Lynn