

January 13, 2012

Greetings! The second half of the 107th General Assembly is back in session.

It certainly is a blessing to live in the Volunteer State! Tennessee, according to a recent U.S. Chamber of Commerce study, says we are a leading "Enterprise State" for its environment of low taxes and suitable regulations. Tennessee's low cost of living, which is the fourth lowest state and local tax burden and manageable budget gap, place it first in this year's tax and regulation ranking. Our state moved up two places from last years ranking. Tennessee is being recognized as a top State for Business and families. It is so vital to offer a pro business atmosphere for new economic prospects so business can grow. When profits are made, job growth will happen. There is more yet to be done in removing government barriers that prohibit business growth as well as maintaining our states low tax reputation.

In the middle of the week, Governor Haslam announced his priorities for the 2012 legislative session where we gathered in the Old Supreme Court Chamber of the Capitol. Taking a first step towards eliminating the Death Tax, the administration raised the cap from \$1 million to \$1.25 million. Hours of working towards removing this nasty tax, which is nothing short of stealing from family farms and family businesses, has proven what we know to be true. This tax keeps future business from coming to Tennessee and it shuts down business's whose heirs can't continue to keep the doors open thus stopping job growth dead in its tracks. Working to bury the death tax is a passionate goal of mine and I am grateful it is a goal of this administration. We have a way to go but we have started the journey.

With a mission statement to run government more efficiently and productively my agenda is to stay focused to insure our State takes the steps necessary to get Tennesseans back to work and make Tennessee the best place to live, work and raise a family.

What an honor and a privilege it is to serve the 40th District.

Blessings,
Terri Lynn Weaver