



February 2016 Newsletter

The 2016 legislative session is well underway now. My bills to protect families and small businesses have strong support. I am working diligently with my colleagues through the committee process. During the legislative session, I post a weekly update on my website for additional detailed information. You can find news and updates [HERE](#).

The cold weather is upon us; and our family has been spending more quality time inside. A new favorite is foosball (family Christmas present) as well as ping pong and Yahtzee. I am very proud of Ryan as he works on his Eagle Scout project to follow in his older brother's footsteps. This month Kari and I celebrate our 23rd anniversary - I am blessed!



Reduce Standardized Testing

Education is the core foundation for the continued success of our great state. Our youngest students today will be those in charge thirty, forty, and even fifty years from now. It is our job as state legislators to ensure their continued success. Over the last 20 years, we as a nation have pushed for more standardized testing to measure student success. This system of learning to the test does not translate to success for students in the real world. The largest failure in our system of standardized testing is the stifling of students' creativity and teachers' ability to teach. It is time to reduce the amount of testing and ensure the continued success of not only Georgia, but of America as well.



Homeland Security

Georgia is committed to protecting our citizens and visitors. As a firefighter and your senator, I make this my top priority for your state government. According to federal mandate, 80 percent of all federal homeland security funding is currently being directed at the local level. For Georgia, this means supporting those in your community who would be the first to respond in the case of a terrorist attack or natural emergency. At the same time, Georgia Homeland Security is also hard at work identifying those areas most at risk, typically ports and metropolitan areas, and maintaining the security presence necessary to not only deter attacks, but to prevent them.



Town Hall Meeting

Thank you to everyone who attended our last town hall meeting. We have another opportunity in March. Please join me with your family as I provide an update of the 2016 legislative session and then focus on your questions and ideas.



Saturday, 3/5 @ 10:30 am
Alpharetta City Hall

ABLE Act

Passed by the US Congress at the end of the 2014 session, the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, or ABLE Act, eases financial burdens placed on those with disabilities. The law sets up a new standard for creating tax-free savings accounts for those with disabilities (529A or ABLE account). These new savings accounts will grow tax-free and cover only qualified disability expenses such as housing, education, or transportation, while also not affecting a disabled person's eligibility for social security or food assistance benefits. ABLE accounts are intended to be created by the parents of those with disabilities. Before implementation of these accounts can take place in Georgia, the General Assembly must pass its own law establishing the creation of ABLE accounts in Georgia and establish a cohesive system for Georgians to apply that falls in line with the national guidelines. I am a proud sponsor of



this bill. Pictured to my right with my friends Jacob and Heidi Moore.



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