



March 2020 Newsletter

We have passed the halfway point of the legislative session now. Crossover Day (28) is scheduled for March 12th where all legislation must pass the respective chambers to remain active. I have numerous bills in process and am on track to have another very successful year. Georgia continues to thrive with our focus on the economy, fiscal responsibility and serving families.

The Albers family is very active in our community. We love supporting good causes and meeting with all those I have the honor of serving. Last month, we participated in over 45 events and enjoyed every moment. Over the years, I have been nicknamed the "Energizer Bunny" and will never slow down in my passion for making a positive impact. I am so thankful to Kari, Will, Gabby and Ryan for being my support system and part of Team Albers!

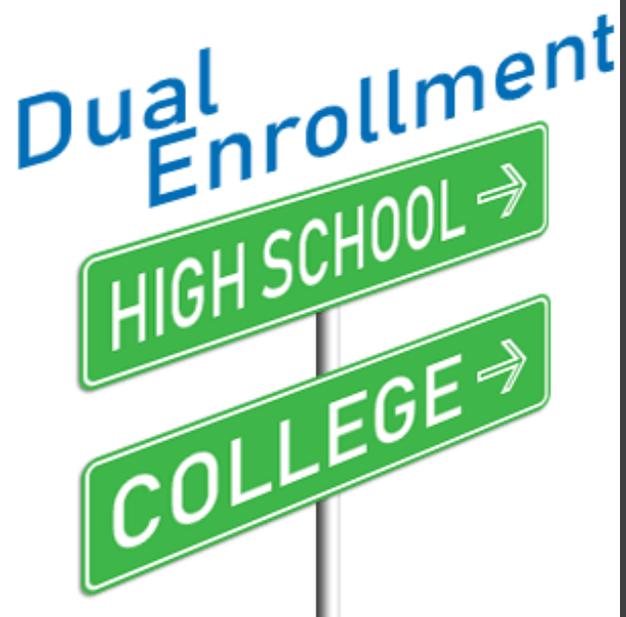


Preserving Dual Enrollment

The dual enrollment program allows aspiring high school students to take courses at our local colleges and universities. My younger son Ryan is currently utilizing this program and I believe it provides excellent benefits. We recently passed legislation to preserve and protect the program as well as the students participating.

The updates to Dual Enrollment make sense to most people. First, you must be a junior or senior in high school to participate. Second, you must take core classes and finally the state will pay up to 30 hours (an entire year of college).

Why were the changes made? We had some abuse of the system with students signing up for Zumba classes and bowling paid for with your tax dollars. Clearly this did not make sense and with these smart updates the program will be successful and sustainable for the future.



Healthcare Surprise Billing

Many people have contacted me over the years

about getting a very large surprise medical bill. There can be great frustration and disbelief of going to an in-network facility for a medical procedure or emergency services and then weeks or months later receiving a bill to learn one of the providers was out of network. I was proud to cosponsor legislation which passed the Senate to make this a thing of the past. For emergency services, all out of network providers must send the invoice to the insurance company and not the patient. For non-emergency services the patient must provide verbal & written consent before receiving services from an out of network provider. This needed transparency and collaboration will improve the lives of Georgia families.



Economy + Jobs = Solutions

Former President Ronald Reagan said it perfectly, "the best social program ever created is a job". My passion for economic growth is rooted in the free market and capitalism. We are the greatest nation on earth and should reject all forms of socialism.

I serve on numerous boards of directors and the Greater North Fulton Chamber of Commerce is making a major impact in our community. At their annual gala, we recognized several deserving leaders in our community. Listed below are the award winners and pictured is my friend and GNFCC Volunteer of the Year, John Herbert.

Lifetime Achievement: John Rasper, DeKalb Office
Pioneer: Barbara Duffy, NF Community Charities
Community Service: Freda Hardage, Northside
GNFCC Volunteer – John Herbert, Herbert Legal



Local Control

We are certainly blessed to live in North Fulton and Cherokee County. Our cities were recently named 6 of the top 10 in the state! I work closely with city councils, mayors, county commissioners and my colleagues to protect local control. Local control assures the decisions are made closest to the people and not dictated from the state or even federal government.

A bad example is HB 302 & SB 172 which would eliminate locally established building and design standards. I am adamantly opposing these bills. These decisions and best made by the municipal elected officials and communities.



Updates on John's priorities

I have authored, sponsored and support several important bills this legislative session. Here are some of the highlights:

End surprise medical billing **Passed the Senate**
Measuring tax credits **Passed the Senate**
Teacher pay raises **On Track with the budget**
Senior citizen protection **Passed the House**
Supporting Police & Fire **Passed Committee**
Support Veterans **Passed the Senate**
Max Gruver Act **In Committee**
End Human Trafficking **Passed Committee**

Restoring budget items **Passed Committee**

We maintain a balance budget in Georgia and work with the Governor and House each session. I am the Appropriations subcommittee chairman for criminal justice and public safety. A few years ago I added additional forensic scientists to the GBI to assure all DNA and sexual assault kits were tested timely. I have assured these are back in the budget as well as support of our accountability courts. I am also working to assure vocational rehab and waiver services are available to our special needs community. In Georgia, we are fiscally responsible and support our priorities.



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