

Subject: Rep. Current's Newsletter

From: "Wendy Miller (Rep. Current)" <Currentla@ncleg.net>

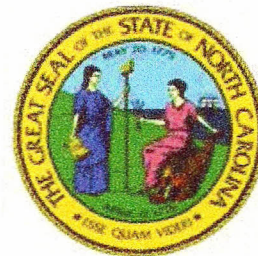
Date: Thu, 24 Feb 2011 15:06:47 -0500



Rep. William A. Current, Sr.

The "Current" News From Raleigh

418B Legislative Office Building
Raleigh, NC 27603-5925
(919) 733-5809 – billcu@ncleg.net



February 24, 2011

LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

Raleigh, NC

Let me take the opportunity first of all in clarifying the events which occurred yesterday in Raleigh. As indicated in earlier newsletter, we are inundated with meetings and visits regarding the interest of numerous groups and associations in North Carolina. Our schedule of meetings with people and attending committee meetings has made it difficult to find time to even grab a snack. Upon learning about the Chairman of the Democrat Party, Bill Toole, bringing a group to visit Senator Harrington's office, I requested my Legislative Assistant to call and invite them to come by my office to share their concerns. Their response was that they would see me at Senator Harrington's office.

My intention for my brief visit to Senator Harrington's office was to ask Democrat Chairman Toole who he represented in coming to Raleigh with a message that Gaston County is not interested in having the Garden Parkway. There were cameras and reporters waiting for my arrival and immediate declarations of why this parkway would be detrimental. In noting the numerous boards and the law firm with which Democrat Chairman Toole is affiliated, my question to him was simply, "Which of these boards or the City Council of Belmont, on which he serves, supported his position?" His answer to each question was that he had not asked them. I found it disconcerting and condescending that his group's wishes should take precedence over those supporters and the NC Department of Transportation who have devoted some 18 years of time and approximately \$20 million in consideration of this project.

It is my personal feeling that the intention of this event was to undermine efforts of your legislature to do what is best for the most citizens. However, I will apologize if my demeanor of response was not characteristic of what little charm I may possess. Everyone is entitled to their opinion in our great Republic, which I deeply respect. I know I am not the first and will probably not be the last to express my feelings with a degree of emotion.

My understanding is that consideration is being given to postponing the Turnpike Appropriations for two years in order to find funds for education and other core values. Evidently, the debate which has occurred for years about how the Highway Trust Fund should be spent (highways and their maintenance) will be continued when our economic House is in better order.

Yesterday, Secretary Crisco publicly stated that he was in support of restoring the budget for the Kimbrell Textile Center. The Governor's removal of this funding and the funding of the Hickory Textile Center seemed to contradict her veto of SB13. Our Caucus will not attempt to

override her veto, but her statement about wanting to make sure North Carolina is business friendly seems somewhat inconsistent with her actions of removing of these funds from her budget.

We had a nice visit this morning from Ann Tippitt, Executive Director, and Debbie Windley, Director of Museum Advancement, with the Schiele Museum. Since tourism (both in and out-of-state) brings about a large amount of income, this is a further consideration for the Garden Parkway. Our two wonderful museums, our magnificent Stowe Botanical Gardens, Crowders Mountain, Kings Mountain, and other areas of tourist attractions, could be reached from our International Airport to our beautiful county in a short period of time. Hopefully, they would bring their wallets with them.

The Lincoln Day Dinner will be held Saturday at Cramer Mountain and it will be the honor of yours truly to introduce Speaker Tillis, who will be our guest speaker. My family is having a reunion for the first time in countless years, but we look forward to having the Speaker in Gaston County as we applaud the tireless, hard work he is putting in to getting our Fiscal House in order.

The Health and Human Services Committee is continuing its hearing of various methodologies of the future health care issues for North Carolina. Although we are in hopes of getting out from under the National Health Care Act, we are proceeding with its recommendations. We also passed the following three bills:

- HB 60 Extend Hearing Loss Task Force.
- SB 7 Ban Mephedrone.
- SB 9 Make Synthetic Cannabinoids Illegal.

I will be Chairing the Health and Human Services Committee next week and we are planning to hear and discuss HB160, "Check-Off Donation: Breast Cancer Screening." We will also hear from the Institute of Medicine regarding the mandate of Health Care Exchanges being established in our state.

We had the pleasure of sponsoring Hannah Brockman as a House Page this week. Hannah is a sophomore at Highland School of Technology and her career pathway is Dental Science. She is a delightful, young lady and we enjoyed her service as a House Page for the North Carolina General Assembly.

Hope everyone has a wonderful weekend.

Please feel free to contact us with any concerns or comments you may have. We look forward to hearing from you. You can reach us at our Raleigh number at (919) 733-5809 or you can email us at Bill.Current@ncleg.net or currentla@ncleg.net.

Best wishes,
Representative William A. Current, Sr.
District 109, Gaston County
