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CHRIS Peace
SERVING THE
97TH District

Peace Progress 2011 Session Update Week 4

Message From Chris

This week marked the busiest days of the 2011 session of the Virginia General Assembly. The breakneck pace that precedes crossover saw the House acting on a great number of bills over the course of just a few days. Committees met late into the evening and we worked hard to act upon measures which are in the best interest of the people of the Commonwealth.

Spotlight on Rebalancing Federalism: Tenth Amendment Resolution passes the House of Delegates

House Resolution 46 which I patroned passed the House of Delegates 65 - 33 on January 31st. The resolution is frequently referred as the "Tenth Amendment Resolution" which requests that the Congress of the United States be urged to honor state sovereignty under the Tenth Amendment to the Constitution and claims sovereignty for the Commonwealth under the Tenth Amendment over all powers not

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otherwise enumerated and granted to the federal government by the Constitution. Former Del. William Fralin and I first introduced this legislation in 2009 in response to the "stimulus" bill passed by Congress. Since then a number of efforts have been introduced in the Virginia legislature; unfortunately, those efforts have been thwarted by the Senate of Virginia. This year the House adopts the resolution. 13 states have passed similar measures.

Spotlight on Tort Reform

At the direction of the House Courts of Justice Committee, the Medical Society of Virginia (MSV), the Virginia Trial Lawyers Association (VTLA) and the Virginia Hospital and Healthcare Association (VHHA) organized a working group to solidify and stabilize the medical malpractice cap for the next 20 years. The results of this effort materialized this session in House Bill 1459 introduced by Del. Dave Albo (R-Springfield). This legislation passed the House 89 - 8 on February 4th.

House Bill 1459 solidifies Virginia's current \$2 million cap for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2032 with an annual adjustment of \$50,000. While the successful advancement of the malpractice cap legislation is a significant achievement in and of itself, it was accompanied by a second, major legislative breakthrough. After recent days of intense negotiations among the key stakeholders (MSV, VTLA and VHHA), a negotiation was finalized between two competing proposals backed by the hospitals and trial lawyers.

My legislation House Bill 2373 addresses the privilege and discoverability issues that arose from the 2006 Virginia Supreme Court case Johnson v. Riverside. I, along with MSV, VTLA and VHHA, reached a conclusion that advanced this legislation which was unanimously endorsed by the House Courts of Justice Committee and passed the full House by a vote of 98-0.

House Bill 2373 will protect peer review and quality assurance documents from discovery in litigation proceedings. The bill, however, does specify that facts and incident reports that are included in a patient's medical record are discoverable in litigation. This bill establishes needed protections for the peer review and quality assurance processes assuring patient safety and quality controls.

Visitors



Delegate Peace, Sheriff Howard and representative from the New Kent Sheriff's Office

This week we were visited by many folks from the District. Kerri Ross of Providence Forge stopped by, Romel Edmonson, Robert Mills, and Michael Funkhouser of Mechanicsville, Todd Vander Pol of Beaverdam, Deborah Febish, a naturopathic practitioner from Mechanicsville, David Adams of Providence Forge, Lucy Cantrell, Diane Metheny, Thomas Goodloe, Susan

Russell, and Sharon Straws of Hanover ARC, Tim Bowring and Overton McGehee of Hanover Habitat for Humanity, Jaime Kannan of Mechanicsville representing HOME, Hal Dalton, Noel Parish from Mechanicsville, Diane Burus representing the Family Foundation, Cabell Lawton and Stran Trout of New Kent, and members of the Spotsylvania Board of Supervisors.

Contact Me

As always, my staff and I are here in Richmond to serve you. We want to hear what you think about the legislation pending before the House, or if there's anything we can do to help you in dealing with a state government agency. My office can be reached at (804) 698-1097 or via the Internet at Delcpeace@house.virginia.gov. If you are planning to visit Richmond during Session, I encourage you to visit me in Room 527.

Thank you again for allowing me to serve as your Delegate.

Media

[Va House OKs more GOP state sovereignty measures](#)

[National Article: Va House OKs more GOP state sovereignty measures](#)

['Repeal amendment' tops tea party goals](#)

[Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy](#)

[Click to watch video of Delegate Peace speaking about passage of HR 46](#)

[Click to hear Peace speak on the House floor in support of the 10th Amendment](#)

New Kent Student Chosen to Serve as House Page

Central VA- On January 12, Delegate Christopher K. Peace (R-Hanover) welcomed Emily Clarke to service as a Page in the Virginia House of Delegates during the 2011 General Assembly session.

Emily Clarke, 14, is an 8th grader at new Kent Middle School; she is actively involved in her community. In school, Emily works hard and is on the Honor Roll; her favorite subject is math. She is a member of the New Kent High School swim team and also runs cross country.

As for being chosen to represent the 97th District, Emily mentioned "I enjoy spending time with my family. I miss my school friends but I am enjoying working for the General Assembly. The thing I miss most about home is sleeping and the best thing about being a page is the paycheck."

"Emily is a smart young lady with a bright future," said Peace. "I want to give her every opportunity to have this once in a lifetime experience. With a few members who were once pages, I wouldn't be surprised to see her in the legislature one day."

Each year the Speaker of the House of Delegates appoints 13 and 14 year-old youth from across the Commonwealth to serve as House pages during the regular session of the General Assembly. These young people assist the members of the House of Delegates, the House Clerk's staff, and other legislative staff in the daily duties required for the successful operation of the House of Delegates during the session.

The page workday begins promptly at 8:30 a.m. and ends at 5:00 p.m. A lunch break is provided. There is no weekend work except for the last Saturday of session. Pages collate bills for filing, deliver legislation and documents throughout the Capitol complex, and perform errands for members and staff of the House of Delegates during each day's floor session and at committee meetings. Pages are also selected for assignments in specific House offices including the Speaker's Office, the Clerk's Office, the Enrolling Room, the Bill Room, the Fax Center and the Governor's Office. Pages are trained for these assignments

during the first two days of their employment. Every effort is made to provide each page with a variety of work assignments. All work assignments are important to the legislative process and should be performed in a professional manner.

While at work pages are under the supervision of the Clerk and Executive Assistant to the Clerk, the Page Coordinator and Assistant Page Coordinator, and two Head Pages who served as pages the previous year. After work pages have approximately two hours of unsupervised free time from 5:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. reserved for eating dinner. It is mandatory that all pages reside at the hotel. There are two chaperons on duty at the hotel from 5:00 p.m. until 8:30 a.m. each day, Sunday through Friday.

A mandatory study hall is held at the hotel every Monday through Thursday evening from 7:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. Certified teachers supervise the pages and help individual students as needed. Pages are responsible for arranging with their schools and teachers the preferred method of taking tests and exams. For more information or to apply for future sessions, visit:

http://legis.virginia.gov/1_cap_class/stu_pro/sp_page_pro.html#House



Delegate Peace with Emily Clarke, House Page from New Kent

Contact Me

My office takes the responsibility of serving seriously. My staff is available during the week to assist you with your concerns; I am also readily available. I encourage you to contact us. Please continue to contact me whenever you have concerns or issues of importance to our community and the Commonwealth.

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