



Senator Dave Burke
26th Ohio Senate District

GUEST COLUMN

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FROM OUR STATE SENATOR: *DAVE BURKE*

Senate to focus on job creation efforts, government reform this fall

The first half of 2011 was an extremely productive time for the Ohio Legislature, as lawmakers passed a fiscally-responsible budget as well as measures designed to create jobs, streamline government and improve our education and criminal justice systems. There remains much work ahead of us however, and I wanted to take this opportunity to let you know about some of the issues members will be looking to tackle this fall.

Getting our economy back on track and creating jobs for Ohioans continues to be a top priority for the Senate. In the weeks ahead, members of the Senate Ways and Means and Economic Development Committee will examine the state tax deductions, credits and exemptions provided to Ohio residents and businesses each year. Government leaders, including Senate President Niehaus, want to see if these items still make sense and are doing what they were intended to do, particularly in regards to job creation. Having this discussion outside of the flurry of activity that accompanies the state budget process will allow for a more thorough examination of this issue, although at this time it is unclear what the end result of the study will be.

We will also continue to work on policies related to the implementation of JobsOhio, the innovative new public-private partnership passed earlier this year that is focused exclusively on job creation and retention in Ohio, as well as other initiatives that seek to help put Ohioans back to work.

Other issues we will be working on include our review of possible changes to Ohio's pension and workers' compensation systems. Members have been looking at potential alternatives to the systems' current structures for several months now, but are mindful that any reforms must receive thoughtful consideration and input from those who would be affected.

In addition, I will continue to urge support for a number of the measures I have introduced since being appointed to the Senate earlier this summer. These include bills that would require a public retirement system to comply with a restitution order following the conviction of a public employee for offenses such as theft in office, simplify the process of obtaining a hunting license for military and law enforcement officers and allow Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) to issue medication orders to allow certain medications to be administered to patients by other medical professionals.

Serving as your state senator is an important responsibility and one I take seriously. Please feel free to contact my office if you have questions or concerns about any of the matters we are discussing at the Statehouse. I can be reached at (614) 466-8049, via e-mail at SD26@senate.state.oh.us or by writing me, State Senator Dave Burke, 1 Capitol Square, Ground Floor, Columbus, OH 43215.

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Senator Burke represents the 26th Ohio Senate District, which encompasses all of Crawford, Logan, Marion, Sandusky, Union and Wyandot counties as well as portions of Ottawa and Seneca counties. For more information, please visit www.ohiosenate.gov/dave-burke.