

Representative Alice Bordsen

Your Voice in Raleigh



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Civic and Community Groups

If any civic groups, community groups, church groups, or other interest groups would like to share issues and concerns with me, would like me to offer a legislative update, or would like me to attend a meeting, please contact me to schedule a time.

It is important for me to keep you informed about my work at the Legislature and for you to inform me of what is important to you.

Please email me at aliceb@ncleg.net or call my Raleigh office 919.733.5820 if you would like me to visit. I look forward to hearing from you!

Need help?

If you need assistance in any state government-related matter, please contact us:

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Upcoming Public Hearings on Children and Youth

One of the most valuable means of citizen input in the legislative process is the public forum, where everyone can have his or her five minutes. As co-chair of the Legislative Study Commission on Children and Youth, I felt it was important to use this method of citizen interaction and have scheduled two public hearings during the Interim session.

We are right to be worried about youth crime, gang activity, and school dropouts. But we all know that these serious problems are best addressed before a child falls into trouble. Legislators need to hear what you think the State should do to assist our families in need.

Life for families has changed dramatically since I was a child. In these tough economic times, most parents must work to make ends meet. Single parents often work multiple jobs. What is the quality, nature, and availability of care for the children in

all age groups when the parents *must* work? There are some great initiatives in place across our state. What can the Legislature do to enable such programs to be better known and to spread? What additional initiatives do we need in North Carolina?

The first hearing will be held on September 24 at Vance-Granville Community College. The second will be at McDowell Technical Community College on October 8. Both will begin at 10:00 a.m. Topics will not be limited. Anything related to children, youth and families is welcome. As more details are confirmed, I will keep you informed.

After gathering public input at the two public hearings, the Commission will have an opportunity to glean the most important issues facing North Carolina children and families and then decide areas where the State Legislature might be able



to make changes.

It is an honor to serve on the Legislative Study Commission on Children and Youth. I am confident this Commission will put together solid recommendations to the 2009 General Assembly that will make a real difference in the lives of our citizens. I hope you can attend the public hearings and have your concerns heard. I am eager to hear what you have to say.

Special Session to Override Veto Yields Unfortunate Results

Last week, the General Assembly was called back for a special session to consider overriding the Governor's veto of [H2167](#). House Members traveled to Raleigh only to cast their vote without a single word of debate. A surprising procedural motion made at the introduction of the bill in the House silenced all discussion. The motion is a non-debatable

one and, if successful, requires the bill to be voted on immediately. The motion was successful. Both the House and Senate voted to override the veto by large margins.

Adding to the confusion of the Special Session were weather and accident-related delays encountered by many as they traveled to Raleigh. A suspension of the rules was

allowed so that late members could have their votes recorded.

There were serious safety concerns about the legislation. While these issues should have been addressed during Session, the Legislature was given a second opportunity in this Special Session to compromise and address these concerns. It was an opportunity wasted.