



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Ralph M. Foley

200 W. WASHINGTON STREET • INDIANAPOLIS, IN 46204

2009 Legislative Wrap-Up

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2009 Legislative Wrap-Up



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE RALPH M. FOLEY
200 W. WASHINGTON ST.
INDIANAPOLIS, INDIANA 46204

What important issues are facing our community today in your opinion?

Please feel free to e-mail your thoughts to me at h47@iga.in.gov, post your comments on my Web site at www.in.gov/h47, or return this card with your comments below.

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Taxpayers are Winners in New State Budget

I believe the new state budget, based on solid common-sense principles, is a success for Hoosier taxpayers and public education.

The budget is a bipartisan compromise, receiving support from Democrats and Republicans alike. Sound fiscal principles and practical solutions remained an important influence.

The budget contains the state's fiscal roadmap for the next two years. Some highlights of the budget:

- No general tax increases.
- Maintains at least \$1 billion in state reserves.
- Uses one-time federal stimulus money responsibly, including statewide infrastructure and university construction projects.
- It does not deplete trust funds or other dedicated money for operating expenses.

My colleagues and I outlined those standards early in the process and did not waver. While many states are cutting overall education spending, raising taxes or both, this budget does neither. It even promises more support for education through additional funding. In addition, the "education trigger" would allot 50 percent of state revenue to education when income exceeds revenue projections.

Statewide public education receives what I believe is solid support:

- K-12 education gained an average increase of 1.1 percent in calendar year 2010 and 0.3 percent in calendar year 2011.
- The budget funds K-12 anticipated enrollment increases at growing public schools.
 - The Ivy Tech Community College network was given enhanced support, and bonding is authorized to fund 38 university capital projects throughout the state, including Indiana University Southeast, Purdue University and Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne.
 - The state's higher education scholarship grants program receives increases of 6 percent in fiscal year 2010 and 3 percent in fiscal year 2011.

I believe this is the right budget for Indiana right now, and that's why I voted for it.



Rep. Foley gets a visit from his grandchildren.



Rep. Foley reviewing legislation.

Dropout Prevention Fund

Provides money for school corporation programs that identify students who are at risk of dropping out of school, and provides appropriate interventions for those students. The programs will include a number of options for students including mentoring, teaching, tutoring, afterschool opportunities, active learning and professional development. These programs will help keep kids in school and hold them to high expectations.

Qualified Immunity for Teachers

House Bill 1462 grants teachers qualified immunity for reasonable acts of discipline. This legislation removes a worry that prevented teachers from disciplining misbehaving students, allowing them to maintain a healthy environment for learning. It also adds possession of child pornography to the list of felonies for which a teacher may lose his or her license.

Veterans' Benefits

Educational benefits for Purple Heart recipients have been expanded to include more veterans.

This extends the remission of fees program to include all Purple Heart recipients regardless of their enlistment date.

Learners Permits and Graduated Licenses

Puts additional limitations on teen drivers by raising the minimum age for a learner's permit and driver's licenses, bans drivers under the age of 18 from operating a motor vehicle while using a cell phone except for making an emergency call, and from carrying passengers under the age of 25 for the first 180 days after being licensed.

- Teens who take driver's education would not be able to receive their license until they are 16 years and six months.
- Teens who don't take driver's education would not be able to receive their license until they are 16 years and nine months.

Under the bill, teenage drivers would be required to have 50 hours of supervised practice, including 10 hours at night, before receiving a license.



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State Representative • House District 47

Contact Information for Representative Ralph M. Foley

Statehouse Office: 1-800-382-9841

E-mail Address: h47@iga.in.gov

Web site: www.in.gov/h47

Mailing Address: 200 W. Washington St. Indianapolis, IN 46204