



Dear Friends,

I hope all of you are staying warm and safe during the wintry weather Virginia is experiencing today. I urge you and your family to stay safe and stay off of the roads in order to allow for conditions to improve and for cleanup crews to plow and salt the roads. If you have to travel today, [please visit VDOT's Traffic Information website by clicking here](#), in order to check on road conditions and to better plan your trip.

Last week was yet another busy week for us in the General Assembly. [Click here or on the video below to view my latest video update from Richmond.](#)



Even with the wintry weather Virginia is currently facing, the Senate convened earlier than normal this morning, in order to account for our large workload we still have to complete before Crossover tomorrow. Crossover is the halfway point of Session, in which the Senate and House of Delegates begin considering legislation sent over from the opposite chamber. Before then, each chamber must finish considering and voting on legislation that originated in that chamber.

My team and I have been working hard, burning the midnight oil, in order to complete all of our work on time. I'm happy to say that 13 of my bills have made it over to the House. I will keep you apprised of their progress as Session continues.

Last week, I presented two important bills before the Senate Finance Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Commonwealth's spending and holds the responsibility of drafting the biennial state budget. Both of these bills are of particular significance, as I believe they are important, common sense reform-minded initiatives that will put hard-earned taxpayer dollars back in the pockets of my constituents in the 17th District and all Virginians across the Commonwealth.

The first measure, Senate Bill 570, proposes a change to Virginia's state income tax brackets. Virginia's tax brackets have not been adjusted in several decades and desperately need to be adjusted to help struggling Virginians. My bill would increase the maximum income within each bracket by \$1,000, lowering the tax burden for all Virginians. The legislation would also phase the tax rate for the bottom bracket to zero, meaning Virginians would not have to pay any state income taxes on the first \$4,000 of their income. In total, this bill would annually return nearly a half-billion dollars back to Virginians. Unfortunately, the Finance Committee decided against adopting this measure as part of Virginia's two-year spending package. I am steadfast in my belief that Virginians need tax relief and I thus plan to bring this bill, in addition to other tax relief measures, back to Richmond next Session for consideration by the General Assembly. Rather than using Virginia's budget surpluses to expand government, our state government should be returning those surpluses back to the taxpayers.

The second measure, Senate Bill 151, would provide relief to Virginia's hardworking teachers by creating a tax credit of up to \$500, to cover many of their out-of-pocket expenses for classroom materials and supplies. This measure will reward Virginia's hardest working teachers who already go above and beyond their call of duty and use their hard-earned money to help cover their classroom expenses. I decided to introduce this legislation after speaking to a number of teachers in the 17th District over the past year about the sacrifices they make on a daily basis on behalf of their students. Rather than simply increasing the state's education funding, risking the funding getting lost in the bureaucracy, this bill will ensure that the money goes directly to the classroom, helping our students. I am happy that the Finance Committee has agreed to take this measure into consideration for the state's educator funding package.

We had a number of visitors from the 17th District to our office at the General Assembly last week. Some of our visitors included students from the Commonwealth's Governor's Schools, business leaders from the 17th District representing the campground industry, members of the Virginia Credit Union League, school board members from Albemarle County, Culpeper County, Fredericksburg City, Orange County, and Spotsylvania County, as well as constituents representing various Sheriffs' offices throughout the 17th District. Thank you to those of you who have visited this Session--I'm always glad to see familiar faces from back home!

Over the past few weeks I have enjoyed hearing the concerns and opinions of many of you on the legislation before the General Assembly this Session. Thank you for all of those who have called

or written me to express your opinion on pending legislation. I encourage you to continue to contact my office by calling (804) 698-7517 or e-mailing District17@senate.virginia.gov. [You can also fill out our constituent contact form online by clicking here.](#)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryce", with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Senator Bryce Reeves

Paid for and authorized by Friends of Bryce Reeves

Friends of Bryce Reeves · PO Box 7022, Fredericksburg, VA 22404, United States