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LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



SENATOR JOHN ALBERS GEORGIA SENATE DISTRICT 56

DEAR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS,

Thank you for the honor and privilege to serve you and your family in the Georgia State Senate. Since being elected, I have worked tirelessly to provide my constituents with phenomenal services and passed legislation that benefits our community, residents, taxpayers and businesses. I will always protect life, liberty and limited government.

The 2021 legislative session adjourned this past spring and we returned January 10th for the 2022 session. Georgia is leading the way with the lowest unemployment in history and I will continue to pass meaningful legislation to support our families and businesses.

This past fall, the Georgia General Assembly convened for a special legislative session to address reapportionment and redistricting, which is required by the constitution every ten years. I'm honored and proud to represent the communities of North Fulton, East Cobb and Cherokee counties.

If I can be of service to you, please do not hesitate to call my office at any time.

Most Sincerely,



ABOUT JOHN

Senator Albers proudly represents the citizens of North Fulton, Cobb and Cherokee Counties. He serves as chairman of the Public Safety committee, vice chairman of Finance, subcommittee chairman of Appropriations, and serves as a member of the Rules, Regulated Industries, Veterans and Education Committees. Senator Albers is a member of the Senate leadership, serving as the Chief Deputy Whip.

Senator Albers served as a fourth generation firefighter and both his sons add a fifth generation by continuing the family tradition. In 2011, 2013, and 2017, Senator Albers was named Legislator of the Year by the Georgia State Firefighters Association and the Georgia

Association of Fire Chiefs. In 2018 and 2020, Senator Albers was recognized for outstanding service by the Georgia Association of Police Chiefs. In 2018 and 2020, Senator Albers was recognized by the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) as well as a "Champion of Georgia's Cities" by the Georgia Municipal Association. In 2020, the Association County Commissioners of Georgia (ACCG) honored Senator Albers with the Legislative Services Award. Senator John Albers was given the "Champion of Children" Award in 2021 by the Georgia Charter School Association.

John and his wife Kari have been married for twenty-eight years and have two sons.



MAX GRUVER ACT

In 2017, Max Gruver, a student enrolled at LSU, lost his life due to alcohol poisoning during a fraternity hazing incident. While the case would not have been covered under Georgia Law, as a parent, I felt now was the time to act. I sponsored the Max Gruver Act, which passed unanimously in both chambers with bipartisan support.

The law now requires anyone who is a witness to an act of hazing to render reasonable assistance. This bill also provides protection for those acting in “good faith” when reporting an incident by protecting them from prosecution.

TAX CREDIT RETURN ON INVESTMENT ACT

Senate Bill 6, which I sponsored and was signed into law this year, allows for the auditing and analysis of current, past, and future tax credits the state has issued.

Georgia has led the way in economic development during the past decade with the help of many tax credits we have offered. It’s important we be a good steward of taxpayer dollars. The bill requires independent audits of up to ten tax credit programs each year to determine if their economic impact justifies the loss of state tax revenue. This law will serve Georgia taxpayers well in ensuring checks and balances.

QBE FUNDING FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

Senate Bill 59 relates to the funding for public local charter schools and charter systems. I have always believed our students and parents should have a wide array of options available as it pertains to education.

The bill which I sponsored allows local school districts to distribute a share of federal funds to charter schools. This bill will increase funding allocations by \$100 per pupil. Additionally, the bill also eliminates an important recruitment and retention issue by allowing charter schools to opt in to the State Health Benefit Plan at any time.

FAMILY UPDATE

In August of 2020, our oldest, Will, was rushed to the hospital, and we quickly learned he was in kidney failure. We almost lost him, and we are so grateful to the doctors, nurses and staff at Northside Cherokee Hospital for their lifesaving care. Praise the Lord he survived, but he needed to go on dialysis at 24 years old. Our world was forever changed, and the impact was substantial for Will and our family.

This past July, we received the most anticipated and greatest news: I WAS THE MATCH to donate a kidney to Will! I cannot fully describe the emotion of hearing that news from the medical team at Emory Hospital after months of tests. We asked people to please pray for Will, me, our family, and the medical staff.

Along the way, God sent angels to help light the path ahead. We kept our situation quiet until July and then felt it was time to share the story. Our hope is that people will get tested if they are feeling ill, gain a better understanding of kidney disease, support those in need, learn their family history, and learn about being a transplant donor. We know God has a plan, and our mission will be to share our experience and serve others.

We received over 13.5 million views on LinkedIn and over 185,000 comments and direct messages. The outpouring of support was heartwarming and more than words can describe. Will accepted my kidney and we are both recovering quickly. Thank you to our worldwide prayer army. There is goodness all around us! In 2022, I have authored and will sponsor the “Giving the Gift of Life Act” to encourage more transplants and save lives.



Significant Legislation Passed In The 2021 Session

HB 81 - State Budget - Increases funding for GBI’s Gang Task Force program. Restores funding for domestic violence shelters and adds additional funding. Increases investments in rural broadband infrastructure. Allocates money to begin the implementation of the “Patients First Act.” Provides funding to improve public safety training by creating programs centered around de-escalation and proper use of force training. Restores funding for higher education.

HB 593 - Georgia Income Tax - Increases the standard deduction for Georgia taxpayers.

SB 1EX, SB 2EX, HB 1EX - Redistricting - Calls for the adoption of new congressional, state senate, and state house maps as required by the constitution every ten years.

SB 202 - Election Reform - Calls for comprehensive election reform to improve election security, improves best practices in the handling of absentee ballots, sets deadlines for counties in the return and reporting of election results and expands access to early voting. This legislation makes it easier to vote and harder to cheat!

HB 333 - Ethics in Government - Sets stricter standards in campaign spending and finance for candidates, elected officials, and lobbyists.

SB 174 - Criminal Justice Reform - Revises the ability of judges and appointed judges on judicial releases. Adds felony offenses for burglary, entering automobiles, and stalking.

HB 286 - Public Safety Funding - Prohibits local governments from cutting their police budgets. In Georgia, we back the Badge!

HB 307 - Telehealth - Allows health care providers telehealth care from their homes, allows patients to participate in telehealth appointments when not in the state of Georgia, outlines the appropriate circumstances to utilize audio-only telehealth services and more.

SB 33 - Human Trafficking - Allows victims of human trafficking to bring forward civil lawsuits for up to ten years against those who benefited off human trafficking.