



Dear friends,

This has been a very exciting and busy year, I'd like to take this time to share what we've been up to in the Georgia's General Assembly.

This was the 158th session for the Georgia General Assembly that convened on January 9th, 2023 and adjourned on Sine Die, March 29th, 2023. This year, 1,611 Bills and Resolutions were introduced, and out of that, only 94 House Bills and Resolutions and 182 Local Bills attained final passage for 2023.

During my time in session, I was able to pass my first Bill, affectionately known as the "Indiana Jones Bill", but is more commonly known as HB 165. This Bill helps protect Georgia's Historical sites, Cemeteries, and Indian burial grounds from being plundered and vandalized by restoring a GORA (Georgia Open Records Act) exemption to ensure sensitive archeological sites continue to be protected. It was a wonderful way to learn about the process of taking a bill through each stage. I am honored to say, it was signed by the Governor into law on Tuesday, May 2nd, 2023; and as a Freshman, this was such an amazing way to begin making an impact that I wish to bring to not only my community, but for the State of Georgia.

I wanted to give you a recap of Key Legislation the Georgia General Assembly passed this year.

- \$1 Billion in property tax relief grants for Georgia taxpayers with an estimated \$500 of relief for every homeowner.
- \$900 Million in tax rebates back to Georgia taxpayers.
- \$138.8 Million in school security grants to make our schools safer - while providing \$50,000 for every school in Georgia.
- Ensured elections are funded only through lawfully appropriated funds, not influenced by outside funding sources.
- Passed Bond reform to stop the revolving door of criminals being released into our streets.
- Restored HOPE Scholarship funding to 100% of tuition.
- Prioritized early literacy.
- Strengthened human trafficking laws to protect the most vulnerable Georgians.
- Pay raises for law enforcement, teachers, and state employee salaries of over \$569.5 million.
- And most importantly, we balanced the budget.



In this coming Session, I look forward to focusing on passing more Bills, like my 'Danielle Bill', HB 357. The significance of this Bill will give someone the ability to revert back to their Surname without the 'Red Tape' of cost, advertisement, and other grievances after a divorce has been finalized. Along with the 'Danielle Bill', I am working on several other Bills; with just as much importance. Another being, and I think we can all agree, the safety of children while they are in school and how anyone who may aim to threaten their safety will bear a more harsh and longer penal sentence. Currently, I am gathering more data and information to provide the best course of action, moving forward. These are only a couple of Bills that I am working on to provide a better future, for not only my District, but for the state of Georgia.

Alongside all of the excitement, I am proud to say that I have Co-Sponsored many Bills, such as:

- HB 377 - Which allows military spouses' licenses to be transferred to Georgia more expediently, than having to wait six months and without them having to be unemployed, due to their license still being registered in their previous residence.

- HB 433 - Which is commonly known as the 'Constitutional Scholars Act', that puts the United States Constitution into the hands of public school students on Constitution Day; September 17th.
- HB 826 - Elections preferential treatment for voters 65 and older, pregnant, and parents accompanied by small children; and people with special needs trying to vote to be treated as priority and be placed at the front of voting lines.



I proudly serve on the following Committees:

- Intergovernmental Coordination Committee, as Secretary
- Natural Resources and Environment Committee
- The Public Safety and Homeland Security Committee, as Secretary
- I am happy to report that I have been appointed to serve on the State Commission on Family Violence

This summer, I have helped receive and grow funds for the STEM Campus for Kennesaw State University, helped constituents gain grants to help grow and flourish our community. I have helped doctors and PA's with obtaining their licenses for our local hospitals. I have and will continue to support our local and state law enforcement, home owners, and tax payers get breaks; and Small Business Legislations to aid business owners with their issues, so they may grow and flourish in our community.

I am here for you, I am here for our State, and I can't wait to see what we will all accomplish this next year!

If I can ever be of service, please feel free to contact my Capitol office at 404-656-0250 or by email at Kimberly.New@house.ga.gov

You can also contact me locally at 770-757-4223.

As always, thank you for allowing me the privilege to serve as your representative.

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