

Representative Alan B. Williams
FLORIDA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
District 8 – Minority Whip

Energy & Utilities Policy Committee
 General Government Policy Council
 Government Accountability Act Council

Government Operations Appropriations Committee
 Joint Select Committee on Public Counsel Oversight
 Joint Committee on Collective Bargaining

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"The question for each man to settle is not what he would do if he had means, time, influence and educational advantages; the question is what he will do with the things he has. The moment a young man ceases to dream or to bemoan his lack of opportunities and resolutely looks his conditions in the face, and resolves to change them, he lays the corner-stone of a solid and honorable success." -- Hamilton Wright Mabie

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

The 2009 Legislative Session has ended, and I wanted to give you an update on some of the issues addressed. The 2009 Session was extended for a week primarily to vote on the 2009-2010 Budget. I voted against the budget. I was disappointed that the legislature chose to cut funding for many important programs in order to balance the budget.

During the Legislative Session, I always made decisions that I believe were in the best interests of the people of District 8 and Florida. Many bills which I did not support were simply voted into law on Party lines. However, we were still able to do some great work with your help – derailing, for example a very dangerous Election Bill.

Budget limbo was due to serious differences between the proposed House and Senate budgets. It was resolved in conference committees. I served on the Appropriations Conference Committee on General Government/Governmental Operation, and I can tell you that dealing with our revenue shortfall was not an easy task. Public funding for libraries that sorely need it like Gadsden County was reinstated -- but we still endured multiple budget cuts, new taxes, and trust fund sweeps. Salary cuts for State employees continues to trouble me deeply. Nearly 25,000 Tallahasseeans do the work of the state, not counting those in the higher education system.

This session, I was privileged to have a bill passed to help the Gadsden County Hospital to reopen next year. It is now sitting on the Governor's desk to be signed. I am very proud of that, because I am here to serve you!

If you have any feedback, questions, or concerns, please let us know.

Sincerely,

REPRESENTATIVE WILLIAMS PASSES GADSDEN COUNTY HOSPITAL LICENSE BILL

State Representative Alan Williams (D-Tallahassee) had his first bill pass in the Florida House of Representatives on April 16th. House Bill 873 authorizes the Agency for Health Care Administration to extend an inactive hospital license for 12 months to Gadsden County Hospital. The bill passed by a vote of 114-1.

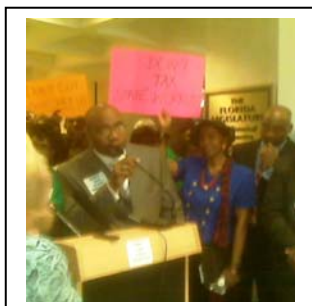
According to Representative Williams, "The hospital has made significant progress toward reopening during its inactive license period. I am proud to be among the freshman members to pass legislation and to have received bipartisan support from colleagues of both parties on this bill," Rep. Williams said.

"Gadsden County needs its hospital and the county and the community have diligently worked to reopen it, including approving a half-cent sales tax last fall for the purpose of funding the hospital. The reopening of the hospital will provide Gadsden citizens with the tools and resources needed to address healthcare in a county with disparities in health."

The bill has passed in the Senate, and has been sent to Governor Charlie Crist for his signature.

PASSED BILLS CO-SPONSORED BY REP. WILLIAMS

- HB 167 Energy-Efficient Appliance Rebate Program**
- HB 185 Access to Health Care**
- HB 319 Recertification of Minority Business Enterprises**
- HB 344 Dori Slosberg & Katie Marchetti Safety Belt Law**



Representative Alan Williams leads American Federation of State County & Municipal Employee members and local elected officials in a press conference at the Capitol on April 24th to say: "Don't Tax State Workers!"

House Resolution 9137

By Rep. Alan Williams

A resolution designating the week of September 1-7, 2009, as "Drowsy Driver Prevention Week" in Florida.

WHEREAS, a 2009 Sleep in America Poll reported that 5 percent of Americans reported driving while drowsy at least once per month in the past year, and

WHEREAS, among Americans who drive, 28 percent have reported nodding off or falling asleep while driving, and

WHEREAS, the incidence of drowsy driving can be reduced by educating drivers of the risks of driving without adequate 11 amounts of rest, and

WHEREAS, many Florida residents die each year from crashes that are related to drowsy, fatigued driving, including 8-year-old Ronshay Dugans, who died when a cement truck driven by a drowsy driver overturned on the bus she was riding in Tallahassee on September 5, 2008, NOW, THEREFORE,

Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of Florida:

That the week of September 1-7, 2009, is recognized as "Drowsy Driver Prevention Week" in Florida and all residents are encouraged to remember those Floridians who have died in collisions related to drowsy driving.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this resolution be presented to the family of Ronshay Dugans as a tangible token of the sentiments expressed herein.

Representative Alan Williams Decries Proposed Salary/Job Cuts

On April 21st, State Rep. Alan Williams issued the following statement regarding proposed salary/job cuts for state employees:

"The Tallahassee area is home to more than 24,000 state employees, not counting state university personnel -- many of whom live on relatively low salaries, paycheck-to-paycheck, and will be the people who implement new laws once the session is over. Proposed cuts of between 4 and 5 percent to those salaries are nothing but an income tax on employees who have not received a raise in three years. Some positions may be eliminated in their entirety.

"The effect of these cuts, if allowed to go forward, will be devastating to our area as fewer dollars flow into the local economy, especially hurting small businesses. Too many people will be in financial jeopardy, and many will have to put the education of their children on hold, or worse.

"This is just not right. There are many ways to increase revenues other than cutting salaries/jobs and further threatening the economy of our Capital City. Fairness and common sense must prevail."

Click on link below to access Rep. Williams' My View titled "Legislature does little to help real people" printed in Tallahassee Democrat on Thursday, May 8, 2009.

<http://www.tallahassee.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article?AID=2009905080309>

House Resolution Recognizes A.J. Graham, Winner of the 2008 Florida Mr. Football Award

Representative Alan Williams sponsored House Resolution 9065 to recognize Amos P. Godby High School Cougar Quarterback A.J. Graham, as the first football player in the history of the City of Tallahassee to be presented the Florida Mr. Football Award. On April 15th, Representative Williams recognized A.J. from the floor of the House of Representatives (see photo below).



During his spectacular 2008 season, A.J. Graham set school records for attempts, completions, passing yards, and touchdowns. He was named to the 2008 All-Big Bend Team and the 2008 All-State Team, was named the "Offensive Player of the Year" by the Tallahassee Democrat and the "Most Outstanding Player" by the Tallahassee Quarterback Club. A.J. also played in the Florida Athletic Coaches Association North-South Game.

A.J. shares the Mr. Florida Football Award with such football greats as NFL All-Pro Daunte Culpepper, 2003 NFL Offensive Rookie of the Year Anquan Boldin, and 2007 Heisman Trophy winner Tim Tebow. On February 4, 2009, A.J. Graham signed his National Letter of Intent to play football for the Marshall University Thundering Herd.

Community Service: It's In Our DNA

Easter Sunday came with a special gift this year: "Extreme Makeover: Home Edition," Tallahassee-style.

We saw proof-positive that George Kadzis' dream of security for his blessed family is a reality. But it was way more than that. It was a wonderful example of how community service can make a difference, one family at a time.

That Sunday night was one of those rare occasions when I allowed my daughter to stay up past bedtime, to witness community spirit at work. Meanwhile, I was working the Facebook lines to share our town's achievement with others across the country – an opportunity to spread some good news about the Capital City.

To then learn in the *Tallahassee Democrat* how the builders from Myddelton Parker and hundreds of volunteers watched the show together with tears in their eyes was a great big bonus. It showed both their compassion for the Kadzis Family and just how much they had personally invested in the project. They had an important mission and they made it happen!

It is now imperative that every one of us honor their accomplishment by continuing to build on the community spirit that made the new Kadzis home possible. It is imperative that each one of us think about what we can do to help someone in our community by volunteering for another project or even starting your own. If you know of a community need, it's imperative that you do something about it. There are many more worthy causes right here in Tallahassee. Times are tough, and so many people need our help.

Be a builder for good. Make something happen. Let's keep George Kadzis and his family in our hearts by helping other people, one family at a time.

-- Representative Alan B. Williams

Town Hall Meetings Following Session to Make State Agencies Accessible

In the coming months, a series of Town Hall meetings will be scheduled throughout the District. Representative Williams has asked each state department or agency to present critical information so to be accessible to constituents and assist you in addressing issues and solving problems. **Most importantly, Representative Williams is accessible to you! Please call 488-1798 with any questions or concerns.**

Special Thanks to Paula Xanthopoulou who served as a legislative aide in my district office during this session. Paula, you are an outstanding public servant. The staff of District 8 owe you a great debt of gratitude for all of your hard work and dedication. Thank you, Paula, and best of luck in your future endeavors!



**Representative Alan Williams
On the Floor of the House**