



## Senate District 15 — Session Update — 2020

Over the past couple of years, we have been dedicated to solving issues plaguing our foster care system. We continued those efforts last week by passing **Senate Bill 335**. This bill would support our foster families by reducing training requirements for qualified foster parents. The bill also ensures juvenile cases are prioritized and perhaps most importantly, the measure allows the Georgia Division of Family and Children Services to work with additional child placing agencies to connect more children with loving homes. Every child deserves an opportunity to grow up in a stable and supportive home where basic everyday needs are met. As we are all too aware of the troubling statistics surrounding the outcomes of children in foster care, this bill represents a meaningful step, ensuring a better life for these foster children and lending additional support to all parties involved.

I am pleased to report that we passed another bill in support of Georgia's children. **Senate Bill 345** works to address an oversight in current law which prevents a charity organization from distributing handmade sandwiches to youth. SB 345, or the "Save Our Sandwiches Bill," establishes new guidelines that remove regulations preventing this practice while ensuring all food distributed meets state and federal food safety guidelines. This is a definite step in the right direction to ensure no child in Georgia goes hungry.

Last week also brought to passage a measure which I co-sponsored in support of our Georgia Veterans. **Senate Bill 268** would allow a valid Veterans Health Identification Card to be used as evidence of identity when presented to a notary public performing a notarial act. I am grateful to my Senate colleagues for their support of SB 268 which passed unanimously.

Last week **Senate Resolution 594** was recognized, which I was proud to sponsor. SR 594 designated February 18, 2020, as Columbus Day at the state Capitol. Columbus has contributed to the state through its defense facilities, tourist attractions and economic development. Columbus is also the largest city in our district and provides jobs for numerous citizens living in Muscogee County, as well as, our surrounding district 15 counties.

As always, I will return next week with an update from your state Capitol. Please don't hesitate to reach out to me with questions or concerns regarding your government at work. It is an honor to serve as your voice under the Gold Dome and I look forward to continuing our work in progression of our state, district and citizens. May God bless and keep you my friends.