

Senator

# Don Balfour

REPRESENTING GWINNETT COUNTY



## Sen. Balfour authors legislation requiring state business to be conducted in English

History indicates that countries with a common language have greater unity and that countries with language barriers often struggle to communicate across those differences. Even stable countries such as Canada have experienced secessionist movements strictly on the basis of language in the province of Quebec.

That is why Balfour proposed legislation this year to require that state government business be conducted in English.

"When you get a commercial pilot's license, you learn to communicate in English no matter where you are in the world – because it is a practical necessity for everyone in the air to be able to communicate in a common language," said Balfour. "It is equally important that the people and businesses of our country have a common language of commerce, education, transportation and civic discourse."

"America always has been and should remain a melting pot," said Balfour. "This legislation would allow the diversity of our country to flourish while encouraging everyone in our state and nation to learn a common language that will bring us a little closer together."

## Legislature acts to limit impact of federal healthcare law

Few issues have concerned Americans more than the implementation of the federal healthcare law officially named the "Affordable Care Act" which was pushed through Congress by President Obama in 2009. In spite of promises that the healthcare law would reduce costs and allow individuals to keep their healthcare plans, the opposite has largely been true as millions have lost their healthcare plans and rates have often skyrocketed.

That is why the General Assembly acted this year to limit as much as possible the negative effects of the federal healthcare law in Georgia. HB 943, named "The Georgia Health Care Freedom Act," prohibits state and local governments from starting or running a health care exchange or navigator program and prohibits state and local governments from advocating for the federal healthcare law in any taxpayer-funded capacity in our state.

One of the key complaints many had about the federal healthcare law is that provided taxpayer funding for abortion coverage. The legislature addressed this problem with SB98 which will prohibit health plans offered through a state or federal health exchange within Georgia from providing abortion coverage and will also prohibit the State Health Benefit Plan from covering abortion service expenses. This brings Georgia into line with every surrounding state which has also prohibited taxpayer funding of abortions via the federal healthcare exchanges.

The legislature also acted to prohibit any expansion of taxpayer-funded Medicaid eligibility without prior approval by the legislature. This will ensure taxpayers are not put on the hook for billions in new spending without a vote of their representatives in the General Assembly.

