

Subject: VCC Update 2/22/00

Negotiations w/ Leadership

In a moment I'll update you on what's happening in the Senate. But first a word about our success in the House.

We've been doing something right as a Coalition. There is honest discussion going on among the Members of the Assembly about our bill's intent and effect. And the Leadership is now willing to meet with us.

Last Thursday, Majority Leader Larry Walker committed to meeting with us IF the Minority Leader would participate. Yesterday, Minority leader Bob Irvin agreed to sit down with us and that we should do it at a time when Rep. Walker could participate, as well.

I'm working today to get agreement on when that meeting can happen. It may happen today. I'm open to it if they are.

I'm urging that we continue to be a visible presence at the Capitol. If you want to come down and meet up with me or others who can coach you on how to use your time at the Capitol productively for Voter Choice, just call at 770/ 635-3496 or 877/ GREEN-09 or write at <mailtohesco@greens.org>. Use this subject line VCC Capitol Lobbying. I'll respond within 24 hours.

I urge continued constituent contact with your own Members and with the House Leadership, listed below. Just because we're finally getting them to the table does not mean they are ready to negotiate in good faith. Only your continued participation in this effort can ensure that.

We're within one vote of being able to get a Do-Pass recommendation from Senate State and Local Government Operations which is scheduled to meet and act on our bill Thursday.

The fence-sitting votes on that committee are

Senator Charlie Tanksley 404/ 651-7738 favorably disposed
Cobb County

Senator Horacena Tate 404/ 463-8053 complete question mark
Fulton County

Senator Terrell Starr 404/ 656-7586 favorably disposed
Clayton County

-- Hugh Esco
chair, Voter Choice Coalition

If the Leadership of each of the Parties hears from us, if they know we're not going to let up, they may withdraw their private as well as their public opposition to our bill and allow their respective caucuses to vote for our bill and send it on over to the Senate.

Speaker of the House Thomas B. Murphy (D); says he's neutral . . .
332 State Capitol; Atlanta GA 30334
Capitol 404/ 656-5020; fax 404/ 656-5644; work 770/ 537-5201

Representative Larry Walker (D);
has agreed to meet with Bob Irvin and the Coalition on a Compromise.
415 State Capitol; Atlanta GA 30334
Capitol 404/ 656-5024; Capitol fax 404/ 657-8278;
work 912/ 987-1415; work fax 912/ 987-1077.
Majority Leader

Representative Jimmy Skipper (D);
tells his constituents he will vote for the bill.
415 State Capitol; Atlanta GA 30334 Jskipper@americus.net
Capitol 404/ 656-5024; Capitol fax 404/ 657-8278;
home 912/ 924-7398; work 912/ 924-9316; work fax 912/ 924-6248.
Majority Whip

Chairman Calvin Smyre (D); 415 State Capitol; Atlanta GA 30334
Capitol 404/ 656-5024; Capitol fax 404/ 657-8278;
home 706/ 563-1794; work 706/ 649-2243;
2work fax 706/ 649-2479; cell 706/ 326-3888.
Majority Caucus Chair

Representative Bob Irvin (R);
has agreed to meet with Larry Walker and the Coalition on a
Compromise.
408 LOB; Atlanta GA 30334
Capitol 404/ 656-5058; fax 404/ 656-0114;
work 678/ 419-5157; work fax 770/ 645-7158 (?).
Minority Leader

Representative Earl Ehrhart (R); 408 LOB; Atlanta GA 30334
says he's undecided but will take it off the table for a vote.
Capitol 404/ 656-5058; fax 404/ 656-0114;
home 770/ 943-8568; work 770/ 437-7536; work fax 770/ 432-1146.
Minority Whip

Representative Mike Evans; says he supports our bill.
604 LOB; Atlanta GA 30334
Capitol 404/ 656-0265; home 770/ 889-4512; home fax 770/ 889-5258.
Minority Caucus Chair

Your letters and calls are having an impact.