

Legislative Update for Chatham County CBA – Mar 2010

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NC State Issues:

- The NC General Assembly will reconvene on Wednesday, May 12, 2010 at 12:00 noon. The State CBA annual Lobby Day will be on Wednesday, May 19, 2010. Please plan to attend if you can.

Federal Issues (Reported by the MRF www.MRF.org)

- **US House Bill 1253 – HIPAA loophole fix.** – Forces insurance companies to tell you if they will not cover your medical expenses for injuries received in what they consider “dangerous” activities. (motorcycling is one of them) Passed the full House vote on April 2nd. In the Senate Health committee. Title: To require that limitations and restrictions on coverage under group health plans be timely disclosed to group health plan sponsors and timely communicated to participants and beneficiaries under such plans in a form that is easily understandable. Sponsor: Rep Burgess, Michael C. [TX-26] (introduced 3/3/2009) Cosponsors (1) Latest Major Action: 4/1/2009 Referred to Senate committee. Status: House voted: 422-3 in favor. Received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

- **Right to Repair Act HR 2057** - a bipartisan bill called the Right to Repair Act of 2009 has just been introduced in the House of Representatives that would, in fact, make it cheaper and easier for millions of consumers to have their cars and motorcycles repaired. Although similar legislation has been introduced in previous Congresses but not voted on, it takes on additional urgency in these tough economic times, especially with the closing of many auto dealerships. Currently some manufactures only make diagnostic tools and software available to their dealerships, severely limiting repair opportunities for consumers. Enter HR 2057, introduced by Edolphus Towns (D-NY), which would require car manufacturers make the tools and diagnostic information needed to repair their vehicles available to independent repair shops on the same basis that they make them available to their dealer-operated shops. Basic consumer choice in vehicle repairs means more fair market competition, which helps keep repairs affordable. Enactment of the Right to Repair Act of 2009 would be a win both for small businesses and consumers at a time when both need a boost. Although HR 2057 does have a greater likelihood of passage this Congress than similar bills have in the past, it still has a long way to go before being signed into law. Latest Major Action: 4/22/2009 Referred to House committee. Status: Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce. Rep. David Price (Western Wake), Rep. Bob Etheridge (Chatham), and Rep. Brad Miller are already co-sponsors. We are good on this one.

Another Scooter in the US Senate - Another motorcyclist has been elected to the United States Senate. Republican Scott Brown pulled off what will be known as one of the most bizarre outcomes in a state-wide election in history. Brown has committed to riding his motorcycle to DC at some point with his biker brethren from Massachusetts. The Motorcycle Riders Foundation Political Action Committee made a donation to Brown's campaign at the request of the Massachusetts Motorcycle Association.

Awareness is our best defense. Please stay involved legislatively.

The annual **RIDE FOR KIDS** is Sunday morning, May 2, 2010.

Registration is from 8:00 AM to 9:45 AM

Brain Tumor Facts

The following information provides a sense of the scope and depth of the disease of brain tumors. For additional questions, please contact the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation at 800-253-6530 or email at rideforkids@pbtfus.org. You may also visit us at www.pbtfus.org or www.rideforkids.org.

What You Need to Know

- Each year 3,400 children in the U.S. are diagnosed with a primary or metastatic brain tumor.
- Brain tumors are the **most deadly** of all the childhood cancers.
- 76% of children diagnosed with a brain tumor are younger than age 15.
- Brain tumors are the **leading cause of cancer death** in children.
- Four out of 10 children diagnosed with a brain tumor will die of their disease.
- Brain tumors can be malignant or benign, and in either case can be **life-threatening**.
- Because brain tumors are located at the control center in the brain for thought, emotion, and movement; their effects can be devastating. Brain tumor survivors, in many cases live with physical and/or psychological disabilities.
- In 1984, the life expectancy of a child diagnosed with a brain tumor was 5 months. Today, the life expectancy has risen to 39 months.
- Treatments for brain tumors frequently consist of **surgery** and **radiation** therapy. They may include **chemotherapy** and other **experimental therapies**.
- Some brain tumor survivors require physical, cognitive and rehabilitation services to allow them to return to tasks of everyday life.
- There are over 120 different types of brain tumors

How the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Is Helping To Find a Cure

- Funding medical laboratory research in search of the cause and cure of childhood brain tumors.
- Creation in June 2003 of the Pediatric Brain Tumor Foundation Institute at Duke, the first of several research institutes planned to accelerate the pace of childhood brain tumor research. Addition of 3 pre-Institutes in 2005.
- Through research, new therapies are being developed that extend the lives of children with brain tumors and additionally improves the quality of their lives.
- Increasing public awareness about the severity and prevalence of the disease.
- Aiding in early detection and treatment of childhood brain tumors through education.
- Supporting and funding the development of a database on all primary brain tumors.
- Providing hope for the thousands of children and families faced with this life-threatening disease.