

Speech at Sweet Union Repub Women's Club  
March 23, 2010

The 10<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the Constitution of the United States reads:

"The powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people."

My name is Craig Horn and I am running for the North Carolina House of Representatives, Dist 68, in order to take back this state. I am asking for your support and your vote in the Primary Election on May 4. Please ask your family and your friends, your neighbors and your co-workers to vote and to vote for Craig Horn for NC House of Representatives.

My principles are simple, they are the principles of our Republican Party:

- Low Taxes
- Promote Free Enterprise
- Reduce Government
- Promote Personal Freedom and Individual Responsibility
- Defend the Constitution

This past Sunday, only two days ago, the Democrats in Congress violated every one of those principles with the passage of the Obama Healthcare Bill. This is a travesty to our system of government and a slap in the face to every American. We cannot stand idly by. This week, Republicans in the North Carolina legislature will take up a "North Carolina Healthcare Protection Act" to prevent any attempts at the federal level to force the mandated purchase of a healthcare plan chosen by the government under the threat of criminal penalties for our citizens. This legislation will offer an "Opt Out" clause for North Carolinians who do not wish to participate in the federal healthcare program. Whether this proposal is successful or not, I will work to protect the rights of the citizens of North Carolina and insure that our individual rights are not trumped by unconstitutional federal mandates which will unquestionably result in an higher taxes.

As with you, my family is very important to me. I am running for this seat because I cannot look my children and my grandchildren in the eye and tell them to get involved if I don't practice what I preach.

I tell them: Voting is Good - But, NOT good enough.

I tell them: Attending a political meeting is good – But, NOT good enough.

I tell them: Learning from your mistakes is good – But, NOT good enough.

And, I tell them that ‘Close Enough and Good Enough is NEVER good enough – until it is Right.’

This past year, the NC Legislature raised taxes, AGAIN. And they raised them by a LOT! Nearly a Billion and a Half Dollars!

During the biggest recession since the Great Depression, North Carolina actually INCREASED the size of the government.

- Raised the sales tax rate by 20% (from 5 to 6 cents)
- They actually put a tax on a tax by implementing a surcharge on individual taxpayers with income over \$60,000
- Added a sales tax on repairs and warranties
- Allowed the “Click Through Tax” which taxes sales to North Carolinians from websites and businesses not physically located in North Carolina
- Added “Combined Reporting” of corporate revenues that increase the tax liability on corporations with operations in a variety of states.

Some of these changes are not necessarily anti-consumer, but taken in their entirety, North Carolina continues to become less and less attractive to investors, businesses and residents.

How many of us know what happened to the Tobacco Settlement money that was to pay the high Medicaid costs for treatment of health problems experienced by long-time smokers?

North Carolina created the GOLDEN LEAF Foundation whose mission is to promote the social welfare of North Carolina's citizens - in other words, a “Slush Fund” to be used by a group of bureaucrats for pet projects in their favored districts.

The sad truth is that IF the \$70 million annual payment to Golden LEAF had been going into the general fund, counties would have received more than \$300 Million over a 2-year period in ADDITIONAL monies coming back to North Carolina that could help pay MedicAid, freeing up other funds for our schools and essential services.

Did you know that the North Carolina constitution requires that all fines and forfeitures collected because of violations of some state laws be used exclusively for maintaining free public

schools? But, state agencies have been withholding those fees for nearly a decade to spend elsewhere. The state Supreme Court put a stop to that in 2005, but most school localities have still NOT received their money.

Proceeds from the North Carolina Education Lottery were to fund long-term capital improvements in school systems. Instead the Governor has used this money to balance short-term budget shortfalls and, in her most recent budget proposal, she continues this backwards practice while doing nothing to reign in the very spending that causes these shortfalls in the first place.

The refusal of the House Education Committee to pass Tax Credits for Children with Disabilities actually cost the State of North Carolina as much as \$5 Million Dollars.

North Carolina does not have a good record of supporting education in spite of that fact that 56% of our total state budget is goes to education. Last year the Governor stopped reimbursement for teachers to achieve their National Board Certification. And, as a result of the legislature's refusal to allow more Charter Schools be established in the state, we lost more than \$100 Million of "Race to the Top" money now being doled out by the Federal Government.

As Chairman of the Churchill Society of North Carolina, I created the Churchill Seminars for North Carolina High School Students and Teachers. These are full day seminars for high school Juniors & Seniors that teach leadership and statesmanship and the relevance of 20<sup>th</sup> Century history through the life of Winston Churchill. We began this program right here in with Union County schools last year. And, just a few weeks ago, we put on our first such program for Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools at the Charlotte Museum of History.

Education is important to me; I have grandchildren in the Union County School system. I volunteer in two schools weekly and I put on programs in elementary and high schools across the county on a variety of subjects. Such public-private partnerships are just one way of raising the bar and not the taxes!

We can no long accept the empty promises for education, we must have serious results.

Funny things seem to happen to money when it goes to Raleigh.

Corporate taxes collected in North Carolina and then administered to school districts based on each district's attendance figures have nearly stopped and the money is now being used to balance the state budget.

The Gasoline Tax, which is supposed to be for highway construction and maintenance, never quite seems to make it to much of our state. When budgets get tight, the Highway Trust Fund is raided in order to balance the budget and our roads are left to crumble.

But the state found room in the current budget to include \$25 Million for a new fishing pier in Nags Head. Doesn't anyone in Raleigh know that we are in the worst economic downturn since the Great Depression?

I believe that we do what we HAVE to do first. Then, we do what we like to do. That's what I taught my kids and my grandkids. That's how I lead my life.

So, Here's the part that really gets me:

The State of North Carolina, just like each of us in our households, should fund its most important needs first. That's where the first \$19 Billion of our \$20 Billion state budget should go. Then we fund what we "like" to do with what's left and we can afford. So, when the Governor or the Legislature says that they have to raise taxes to fund teachers, schools, police and basic services, what they have really said is that these services are really not all that important. Because, if they were, they would have funded them FIRST and let the other stuff split up the remainder.

We have to stop this insanity. We have to take responsibility for ourselves and not dump the bill on our children and grandchildren.

When I was a kid, about 12 years old, I wanted to be a rodeo champion. I tried the Baby Bronc's and I did okay. So, one day I decided to try the Baby Brahama's. I still hold the corral record at the Wisconsin Dell's youth championships. NO time off the clock and I was on my back on the ground. I was in the dirt and over my head!

Well, that is exactly what is happening to our children and grandchildren. No Time off their clock and they are already in debt over their head. They haven't even suited up, let alone gotten into the game.

We must reduce the debt and we must generate jobs. Jobs bring income and careers. With income and careers come consumer goods and services. And with that comes revenue to do all those "Nice to do" things that make life a bit less trying in these trying times.

My name is Craig Horn and I am running for the North Carolina House of Representatives, District 68. If you are looking for a candidate who is committed to the principles of our Republican Party of Low Taxes, Free enterprise, reduced government, personal freedoms and individual responsibilities and someone who will defend our constitution, I am asking for your support and

your vote in the Primary Election on May 4<sup>th</sup>. I have a record of hard work and an enthusiasm to tackle the difficult issues ahead. Ask your family and your friends, your neighbors and your co-workers to vote and to vote for Craig Horn for North Carolina House of Representatives on May 4.

In turn I promise you, as has once been said:

Blood – Toil – Tears - and Sweat !