

# Indiana House of Representatives

## News & Information

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### **House Speaker Pat Bauer lauds accomplishments of the 2010 legislative session**

**INDIANAPOLIS** – Indiana House Speaker B. Patrick Bauer (D-South Bend) issued the following statement after the conclusion of the 2010 session of the Indiana General Assembly:

“Even though we have gone through a long, difficult journey, I believe that lawmakers from both parties will be able to look back at the 2010 legislative session with a sense of accomplishment.

“Just consider what has happened since we started this session last November.

“Back then, Indiana House Democrats were the only people trumpeting the need to do something to get more Hoosiers back to work. We insisted that the Legislature and the governor heed the call to help the thousands of people who had lost their jobs and were looking for help.

“Today, we were able to pass a series of initiatives that can put Hoosiers back to work, sooner rather than later. We provide incentives to attract new businesses to Indiana, and we expand the assistance that can protect the small businesses often left behind in state economic development efforts. Through our Helping Indiana Restart Employment (HIRE) program, we will be working to bring \$100 million in federal dollars back to our state to create new jobs.

“At the same time, we will be asking the employers who receive these incentives to live up to their word and create the jobs they promised. If they don’t, we will be getting the taxpayers’ money back.

“Protections will be extended to those workers wrongly classified by employers who want to avoid paying their obligations in providing health insurance, Social Security, pensions and workers compensation. These provisions will have the added benefit of bringing millions of dollars in revenue to our state.

“Each day’s news brings more indications of the problems the governor’s state budget created for schools across Indiana. This year we passed legislation that grants local school corporations additional financial flexibility. It will not entirely reverse this governor’s educational legacy. Teachers are still going to be laid off, class sizes will grow and programs will be cut. But we have helped reduce the impact.

“In the final rush of activity, it is easy to forget some of the things we accomplished earlier this session.

“But we have taken substantial steps toward rebuilding public trust in state government by demanding tougher ethical standards from the Legislature, the governor’s office and lobbyists. It does not address the potential for problems caused by ‘pay to play,’ but it does respond to many of the concerns the public has expressed about good conduct.

“It also must be mentioned that the people of Indiana will get the chance to vote this November on a referendum to place the 1-2-3 property tax caps into our state’s constitution. I am sorry that we did not move to close the gaps in the caps by capping the annual growth in tax bills for homes, farms and businesses.

“Above all, I am pleased that the members of this General Assembly did not ignore the cries for help from more than 300,000 Hoosiers who find themselves without jobs, as well as the thousands more who have lost their benefits or given up any hope of finding work. When the history of this session is written, it will be remembered that we have given these Hoosiers hope.”