

## **STATE REP. DANNY SHORT UNVEILS LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF HOUSE SMALL BUSINESS CAUCUS**

April 22, 2010

Dear Editor,

About a year ago, I helped establish a bipartisan legislative panel with the primary goal of addressing issues related to small businesses in Delaware.

Together, State Representative Bryon Short – who, like me, is a small business owner in Delaware – and I organized the ad hoc House of Representatives Small Business Caucus. Throughout this past year, the Small Business Caucus met with small business owners across the state gathering input on how the state can strengthen the small business environment. Last fall, the Small Business Caucus held meetings in each of the three counties to hear directly from Delaware's small business owners, as well as representatives from the various Chambers of Commerce and trade associations throughout the state. As a result of those meetings, the Small Business Caucus crafted its legislative initiatives for this session.

The legislative plan includes the following action items:

- Leveling the playing field for in-state contractors – Two bills will be introduced that are aimed at ensuring the success of Delaware contractors. These bills will make sure that Delaware treats out-of-state contractors, particularly when it comes to licensing, in the same manner Delaware contractors are treated when doing work in other states.
- Increasing Regulatory Flexibility – This legislation is designed to create a friendlier regulatory environment for small businesses.
- Improving Small Business Lending – This House Resolution calls on Delaware's Congressional Delegation to examine the issues relating to the obstacles small businesses face in trying to obtain a small business loan and work to develop solutions.
- Revising Delaware's LIFT (Limited Investment for Financial Traction) program – Delaware's LIFT program uses money from the state's Strategic Fund to subsidize the interest on small business loans. Suggestions on how to improve the LIFT program are being recommended.
- Reforming Healthcare Insurance – This initiative includes enacting several reform measures, including legislation which I am sponsoring that will provide an analysis of the comprehensive Workers' Compensation law enacted in 2007.

The Caucus is also calling on health insurance companies to develop policies that offer only essential coverage to their clients.

Starting the House Small Business Caucus – along with crafting our legislative agenda – has been an exciting opportunity because of the positive outcome that I know will be the result. I want to thank the small business owners throughout the state who have been instrumental in helping to formulate our action items. Their input has been invaluable. These companies, who are trying to make their businesses succeed in a tough economy, face a number of serious issues. We are hopeful that our agenda will begin the process of addressing their concerns. Even though there is more work to do, we believe that this will start the process of providing a more business-friendly environment in the state.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daniel B. Short". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent initial "D".

State Rep. Daniel B. Short  
Minority Whip  
39th District