

# **WITH THE LEGISLATIVE SESSION HEADING INTO ITS FINAL STRETCH, REP. SPIEGELMAN SAYS THE CHANCE TO SERVE IN THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY HAS BEEN VERY REWARDING**

May 2013

Dear Editor,

The General Assembly is currently on break while the Joint Finance Committee puts together the state's budget. Meanwhile, as a freshman legislator this year, I have had a very interesting experience. Fighting for the interests of the good people of the 11<sup>th</sup> District and the state of Delaware has been very rewarding, but challenging as well. Here are some of the highlights of the first five months of session, knowing that there is a lot more work to be done in the final month starting Tuesday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

- My colleagues and I unveiled a package of bills aimed at making state government more open and accessible to the public at large. As part of our ongoing effort to help make Delaware First Again, I am proud to co-sponsor a package of bills aimed at making the General Assembly a more open institution. This package includes restrictions on former legislators becoming lobbyists, stiffer reporting requirements for political donations and increasing uniform protocols and procedures between the House and Senate. While campaigning, I made a promise to the people of the 11<sup>th</sup> District to fight for a more open government. It is still a long road ahead, but I am proud to have helped take the first steps.
- I was very proud to have recognized April 11, 2013 as National Pet Day. With all the debate back and forth about how to best make Delaware First Again, it was nice to take a minute to recognize something that has such a positive effect on so many people across this great land.
- It is my desire that my first bill be brought before the House for a vote in early June. With bi-partisan co-sponsorship in both houses of the General Assembly (a big thank you to my fellow elected officials who agree to be a co-sponsor), the bill would allow Delawareans to donate part of their state income tax returns, if they so wish, to the newly-created Delaware Veterans Trust Fund, which would provide financial assistance to honorably discharged Delaware veterans. The bill has been assigned to the House Revenue and Finance committee, of which I am a member.

This is just the tip of the work being done in our State Capitol. There are many more bills that have gone through, or been tabled or defeated, in the General Assembly. However, my proudest accomplishment is working with my constituents. It is so rewarding to sit at a coffee meeting with my boss (meaning YOU, dear reader) and then accomplish that which they need in order to live a happier and safer life. Sometimes that is cleaning out ditches or fixing roads. Sometimes that is fighting for job growth or Constitutional rights. Either way, it has been a fantastic and rewarding journey. Thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,



Jeff Spiegelman  
State Representative  
11<sup>th</sup> District