

Mike Ritze, D.O., M.F.S.A.

State Representative, District 80



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HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

State of Oklahoma

Committees:

Public Health
Public Safety
Appropriations and Budget
Subcommittee
on Public Health and Social Services

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Dear Constituent,

I would like to thank you for your response to the newsletters I have been sending during the past year. Your feedback through mail, email, phone calls, and personal contact lets me know that people do care what is happening at the State Capitol and why.

Before I get into the significant issues that the Legislature must deal with, let me say Merry Christmas. It is easy to see that Godly men seeking to carry out God's will is who founded our country. Original documents like the Declaration of Independence, our Constitution and thousands more demonstrate that the United States of America is a Christian nation. The principles and laws that govern us find their basis in the Bible, and as long as we adhere to those ideals, we will be blessed. I hope that you and your family have a wonderful Christmas as we celebrate the birth of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Let me start with an update about ACORN. During October of last year, about 3 weeks before the general elections, computers and other materials were obtained from an ACORN office in South Oklahoma City. Determination was made that ACORN had targeted Senator Jim Reynolds, Representative Mike Christian, two other state Representatives and one additional Senator. The information obtained was turned over to the appropriate law enforcement authorities.

The ACORN printed material indicates they help underprivileged people with various services; the actual information obtained paints a far different story. It shows that their priority was to accumulate power by carefully targeting a few candidates in selected areas. In fact they joined forces with the American Federation of Teachers and the radical church organization associated with the President's "spiritual" advisor, Jeremiah Wright.

ACORN was recognized by the IRS as a non-profit organization, which is prohibited from partisan politics. The information from the ACORN office demonstrates that in fact they are extremely partisan. Some of the information indicates that files were prepared by current or former Democrat staff members of the Oklahoma Senate.

I can not say much more about the ACORN situation at this point other than it is still under investigation. Unfortunately, the person that apparently benefitted the most from the ACORN efforts is Barak Obama. The policies that he has implemented since his election are a crushing weight on our country. For example:

- Reversing policies of President Bush that protected unborn children
- Taking control of private corporations
- Bailouts of banks and other financial institutions
- Bailouts to the real estate industry
- Bailouts to the car industry
- Subsidies for people to purchase items like cars and home
- Attempting to socialize the American Health Care industry
- Refusing to acknowledge terrorist for what they are
- Bowing to Saudi Kings
- Promoting perverted life styles

All of these positions are in direct opposition to the principles of Freedom, Free market enterprise, personal responsibility, and accountability that made our country great.

However, there is good news. It is centered right here in Oklahoma, and will be an encouragement to other states. The number of Representatives and Senators, Republican and Democrat, that are fighting to defend your rights like freedom of religion, right to bear arms, and states rights are growing.

During the last few months, there have been stories about massive tax fraud being exposed. This has caught the attention of a good number of legislators and I believe there will be demonstrations to show that literally hundreds of millions of dollars have been given to a few select individuals and corporations under the guises of "economic development". I believe that virtually all of these clever schemes are not only morally wrong, they violate our state constitution, and they just don't work. For example, one plan that was uncovered allowed \$200 million in tax credits for six \$1 loans.

Of course, what is on every ones mind now is the economy. While it is true that we have record unemployment, 90% in Oklahoma have a job. It is also true that the state budget has problems that are likely worse than most of us have seen in our lifetime. This will lead to a necessary decrease or hopefully elimination of non-essential government services.

Enormous pressure will be brought to spend the \$600 million in the rainy day fund. I believe this is a recipe for disaster. Based on projections of the revenue (basically taxes) and what many economists are projecting over the next 2 to 3 years, the budget outlook will be worse. If we spend the money in the rainy day fund to deal with this year's issues, next year will be 2 or 3 times as bad. If the Director of State Finance (an appointee of the Governor) would cut expense allocations to all agencies by 10 to 15% now it could prevent what might be 25 to 35% reductions next year. At the current time, the issue is entirely in the Governor's hands because the Legislature is not in session.

Thank you for your continued support. I am thankful for the insight that I receive from so many of you. If you have any comments or suggestions that will make House District 80, Oklahoma, and our country a better place to live or if there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to call.

I would like to ask if you have a family member or friend from Oklahoma that is now serving in the military, as a Veteran myself, I would like to send them a note of encouragement. Please send me their address and I will write to them.

As always, I would ask for your continued prayers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rep. Mike Ritze". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Mike Ritze, D.O.
District #80