



RICHARD BURR

U.S. SENATOR NORTH CAROLINA

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Despite all of the issues facing Congress and the American people right now, this was a relatively light week legislatively in Washington. The only votes this week were on two executive branch nominations, and we have no indication of what might be coming up in the near future. There is talk that the Senate may begin work on a second stimulus bill soon. As we learn more about when this and other issues will come to the floor, I will keep you posted. In other Senate news, the chamber's newest member, Scott Brown from Massachusetts, was sworn in on Thursday afternoon.

On Monday, President Obama sent his budget proposal for Fiscal Year 2011 to Congress. This \$3.8 trillion dollar budget request is not only historic in size, but ignores our growing debt obligation that will suffocate the next generation. It contains billions of dollars in new spending and higher taxes and fees for American families and businesses. This year, our national deficit will reach \$1.6 trillion. The American people are rightfully very upset with the level of spending and growing debt coming out of Washington. It is time we stop passing the responsibility to future generations and make the tough decisions necessary to get our spending habits under control.

On Tuesday, I attended a press conference on the House side where Congressman Brad Miller of North Carolina's Thirteenth District introduced the *Janey Ensminger Act*, companion legislation to the *Caring for Camp Lejeune Veterans Act* that I introduced in the Senate with Senator Hagan. Congressman Miller's bill is named after the daughter of Marine Corps veteran Jerry Ensminger who died from childhood Leukemia when she was just nine years old after being exposed to contaminated water while in utero. Jerry has tirelessly fought for military families who have suffered from exposure to known human carcinogens such as Trichloroethylene (TCE), Tetrachloroethylene (PCE), benzene, and vinyl chloride.

These bills require the VA to provide health care for veterans and their family members who were exposed to contaminated water at Camp Lejeune. For too long, our federal government has denied these veterans and their families justice in this tragic situation. We have a solemn duty and moral obligation to take care of those who were put in harm's way while serving our nation. They have waited long enough, and I was proud to join my colleagues as they introduced this important legislation in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

U.S. Senator Richard Burr

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