



DEMOCRAT BRANDON THOMAS DENOUNCES REPUBLICAN LEGISLATORS' IRRESPONSIBILITY WITH TAXPAYER MONEY

SMYRNA (September 1, 2016) -- Candidate for State House District 49 Brandon Thomas joined the chorus of concerned voices calling for Republican state legislators to stop putting politics and fundraising ahead of Tennessee taxpayers' needs.

"Our state is at risk of losing \$60 million in federal road funding due to a mistake in a bill passed by our legislature last session," Thomas said. "In a rush to get back to campaigning, Republican legislators neglected to give Fiscal Review enough time to adequately review all bills for mistakes just like this."

Thomas emphasized that this wasn't the first time Republicans in the legislature put funding at risk.

"This \$60 million pales in comparison to the billions of dollars the Republican supermajority jeopardized with a bill targeting vulnerable transgender students, in defiance of Title IX. And it's also less than the \$1 billion in Tennessee taxpayers' money that is sitting in Washington instead of being used to expand healthcare coverage. Whether they're playing fast and loose with money as part of a political game, or because they want to end the session sooner and get back to raising campaign dollars, this seems to be a pattern with the Republicans in our state legislature."

"This mistake is unfortunate, and it points to a larger problem with some of our lawmakers ignoring the financial risks of the bills they propose," Thomas concluded. "We need more everyday Tennesseans elected to our legislature – folks who know the value of a dollar in their personal lives, and can bring that sensibility to the legislature."

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