



**SENATOR JERRY TILLMAN
SENATE MAJORITY WHIP**



SENATE UPDATE

January 31, 2018

TRUMP'S STATE OF THE UNION: If you missed it, you missed a great speech. If you missed it, you missed a disgraced bunch of Democrats displaying their (1) ignorance and (2) their disrespect for not only their country but also their President. Their hate for Trump overshadowed any sense of patriotism or reality of the economy, border security, and other great achievements made by the Trump administration. They refused to stand and were so afraid of their ultra-left friends they would not applaud issues they have supported in the past – some as recently as last week...

How can anyone not applaud border security, the flag, punishing criminals, and standing strong against our enemies? How can anyone not applaud the unprecedented gains in employment and the lowest unemployment rate of African-Americans in our history? How can anyone not applaud the most robust business expansion in years? How can anyone not applaud the fastest stock market explosion in recent memory? A blind man could see these achievements – only partisan, liberal Democrats had to look around to see who was standing and applauding. Nancy Pelosi and Chuck Schumer tried to make themselves invisible but had nowhere to hide.

You know they and their cohorts looked totally miserable. Did they not know that their lack of support for our troops, our security, and our economy was noticed by 30 to 40 million people? People who will remember on election day... We'll see... We'll see...

Overall, Trump's SOTU speech was a massive success. According to a CBS Poll, 75% of speech watchers approved. The same poll found that the approval rating among Republicans was 97%, among Democrats was 43%, and among independents 72%. In addition, 65% of speech watchers felt proud after watching the speech.

WHAT'S WRONG WITH THIS:

- Standing and saluting the flag
- Limiting immigrants to those who (1) love America, (2) are legal or on a pathway to legality, (3) possess skills for productivity and can be gainfully employed in America, (4) have no criminal record, and (5) agree that conviction of serious crime is grounds for expulsion
- Supporting our military and law enforcement personnel 100%
- Wanting to "Make America Great"
- Building a great wall
- Fighting the drug epidemic (at the border and within)
- Thanking and praising God from whom all blessings flow

I've noticed how the above topics make certain political types uncomfortable. They don't want to be caught dead supporting them in the presence of the looney, liberal left. On the other hand, they know folks back home still love the flag, love America, and love law-abiding citizens. They are the real people who still have values and still have common sense. Too bad much of America has lost its way. I'll give the media and the press most of the credit for this sorry state we find ourselves in. Will common sense ever come back? If Donald Trump can't bring it back – it won't come back... We'll see...

REDUCING THE STUDENT TO TEACHER RATIO

For decades, research has shown that lowering class sizes in core academic subjects in the early grades – by reducing student to teacher ratios – leads to improved academic outcomes for students. That's why it's been one of Senate Republicans' top priorities for years. Over the last several years, the General Assembly has funded local school systems' ability to hire more teachers and reduce their student to teacher ratios to 1:18 in Kindergarten, 1:16 in 1st grade, 1:17 in 2nd grade, and 1:17 in 3rd grade. In fact, since 2014, local school districts across the state have received roughly \$222 million in extra dollars to reduce those ratios – and every year, they are guaranteed to receive about \$70 million in recurring dollars that we intended to cover the expense of hiring additional kindergarten through third grade teachers. We expected that the tax dollars we budgeted to make reductions in class size were being used for that purpose. But last year we learned that many school districts had not been spending the money for its intended purpose all along. Last year, school districts began raising concerns that they would no longer be able to fund enhancement teachers in subject areas like art, music, drama and P.E. We asked them to share their calculations with lawmakers so we could understand how much, if any, additional funding was needed. But many school administrators decided to submit incomplete information – or no information at all. We wound up having to put a directive requiring them to provide the data into law. We have already passed a law stating our intent to use that data to fund program enhancement teachers beginning in the 2018-2019 school year. Now that the required data is actually coming in, we are examining the best ways to accomplish that goal. We will continue working with our schools to provide parents certainty about what will happen next school year – while making sure taxpayers are getting the smaller class sizes they've paid for.

QUOTES: “Nominations for Academy Awards came out. There are a lot of familiar faces among the nominees. Meryl Streep is nominated for the 21st time. Denzel Washington was nominated for his ninth Oscar and I'm not even sure he was in a movie this year. That's how good he is.” – Jimmy Kimmel

“It was no surprise a fake news award was given to CNN. They won for falsely reporting that Trump overfed fish on his trip to Japan. Glad he cleared that up, because that's the crisis in Asia looming on the horizon that everyone is worried about. Not nuclear missiles – bloated koi fish.” – James Corden

BIBLE VERSE: “The name of the Lord is a strong tower; the righteous man runs into it and is safe.”
– Proverbs 18:10 (ESV)

YOU ASKED ME TO

Written and Sung by: Billy Joe Shaver and Waylon Jennings

Long ago and far away
In my old common labour shoes
I turned the world all which-a-way
Just because you asked me to

Likened to no other feel'
Summer love is simple true
There's no end to what I'd do
Just because you asked me to

Let the world call me a fool
But if things are right with me and you
That's all that matters and I'll do
Anything you ask me to

Knowin' how much I love you
After all I've been through
I'd turn and walk away from you
Just because you asked me to

Let the world call me a fool
But if things are right with me and you
That's all that matters and I'll do
Anything you ask me to

Let the world call me a fool
But if things are right with me and you
That's all that matters and I'll do
Anything you ask me to

Senator Jerry Tillman can be reached on Facebook

Are you on Facebook?

You can reach Senator Jerry Tillman by going to <http://www.facebook.com/jerrywtillman>

Once you get to Jerry's page, just hit the like button at the top of the page and you'll start getting updates during the week.

If you don't have a Facebook account, you can sign up for an account so you can start getting Jerry's updates.

Then tell your friends and neighbors who might want to know what Jerry is doing in Raleigh for the folks in Randolph and Moore counties.

You Can Follow Senator Tillman on Twitter

Go to <http://www.twitter.com/jerrytillman> and sign up to follow Senator Tillman.

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