

# House of Representatives State of Tennessee



Contact: Kara Watkins (615) 741-1975  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## **Representative Rowland identifies \$10 million in savings** *State allocated more dollars than necessary, says Rowland*

(October 12, 2009, NASHVILLE) – Representative Donna Rowland (R-Murfreesboro) worked recently on the Fiscal Review Committee to save the state over \$10 million that it had allocated on state contracts. Rowland said the waste is unacceptable, and with the support of the Fiscal Review Committee, has asked the State Comptroller to amend the contract and return the money.

“For two years now, our state budget has been dire straits, with the legislature and the Administration asking every department to reduce its budget,” said Representative Rowland. “This kind of waste and spending in a time when most Tennessee families are struggling, and we’re struggling to pass a balanced budget is completely unacceptable.”

A general services contract for elevator service was drawn up to provide service for 400 elevators over four years if counties, cities, and universities joined in—but they never did, meaning service was only provided for 170 elevators. Rowland asked the committee to amend the contract and return the surplus of \$9.5 million, and the committee agreed.

The Fiscal Review Committee is charged with a continuing review of such items as revenue collections, budget requests, the recommended executive budget, appropriations, work programs, allotments, reserves, impoundments, the state debt, and the condition of the various state funds.

Representative Rowland has been serving on the Fiscal Review Committee since 2003, and has identified savings for the state before. In 2004, she noticed an appropriation for a state contract that exceeded the actual cost of the work by over \$50,000. In 2005, Rowland pointed out \$4 million in savings on a contract made between the State of Tennessee and Blue Cross Blue Shield of Tennessee. The contract projected a \$10 million budget for Fiscal Year 2007 on a contract regarding Medicare Supplement Services. The same contract totaled \$5 million for Fiscal Year 2006.

“These are just squandered dollars, and sloppy management of Tennesseans’ tax dollars. The waste needs to stop, and I will continue to work with my colleagues on the Fiscal Review Committee to identify this waste and recognize savings for our state,” said Representative Rowland.

Representative Rowland serves District 34 in the Tennessee House of Representatives, which consists of part of Rutherford County. She was elected to the state legislature in 2000, and is a member of the House Finance, Ways and Means Committee, the House Children and Family Affairs Committee, and the House Conservation and Environment Committee. She also serves as the Chair of the House Family Justice Subcommittee and the Vice Chair of the House Environment Subcommittee. In 2003, she was elected by her colleagues to serve on the powerful Fiscal Review Committee.