

PRESS RELEASE
Thursday April 2, 2015

Contact: Garland Favorito
(404) 664-4044

Civic Leaders Initiate HB310 Veto Campaign

ATLANTA, GA – Many civic group leaders held a [press conference](#) at the Capitol Wednesday and called for Gov. Nathan Deal to veto [House Bill 310](#). The leaders announced a new veto campaign using social media and traditional communication techniques. The group included leaders of Eagle Forum, VoterGA, Madison Forum, N.W. 912 Project as well as Tea Party and liberty leaders from Canton, Dalton, North Fulton, Bartow and Lake Lanier near Gov. Deal's home. The April Fools Day conference focused on how Georgians get the opposite of what they expect from legislation. About 50 people carried [letters](#) into the governor's office.

[HB310](#) was panned for enabling large government **expansion** that is **unnecessary** to achieve the criminal justice reforms in the bill. Speakers explained how Page 6 of the bill provides for a new Department of Community Supervision with a newly appointed Commissioner. He or she can **hire an unlimited number of employees** while creating hundreds of new Community Supervision units throughout the state. Speakers also cited Page 7 & 16 as giving a governor **new separate police powers** that they believe can be **easily politicized**. They contend that any governor could **arrest political dissidents** and **impose sanctions** on them in a newly created pre-trial release program **without convicting the individuals of any crime**.

All leaders agreed HB310 is another example of legislation that is **diametrically opposed to the principles upon which Gov. Deal and most of the legislature were elected**. A former volunteer quoted a campaign speech from Deal's platform of less government, lower taxes and personal liberty. Since his re-election, Gov. Deal has advocated for various bills that **oppose** the principles he espoused earlier.

Gov. Deal pressured legislators to pass HB310 despite **staunch public opposition**. A Senate Public Safety Committee held a hotly debated two part hearing. Sponsor Alan Powell told the committee that existing functions were being "unplugged" or "replugged" and there were no new police powers. Members of the public testified that **he presented the bill untruthfully to the committee**. The bill passed the committee without a fiscal note for new expenditures but only 2 of the 7 committee members voted for the bill on the Senate floor.

Gov. Deal vetoed his predecessor bill after last year's session. The Leaders hope that their continued opposition will help the governor realize that a massive Department of Community Supervision is not the legacy he should leave Georgia.

###