Richard Burr

Richard Burr has served as a member of the House of Representatives for 5 terms before his first term as the republican senator from North Carolina's 5th district. He was born in Charlottesville, Virginia and graduated from Wakeforest University with a bachelor’s degree in communications. While at Wakeforest he played college football and was a member of the Kappa Sigma fraternity. Once out of college, he was a sales manager for 17 years, working as a lawn equipment distributor until he entered office on January 3, 1995. He married Brooke Fauth and now has two children and his religion is Methodist. Richard Burr is said to be related to Aaron Burr through his father, who was his 12th cousin.

He was elected to the senate in July of 2004, taking the place of John Edwards, after defeating his Democratic opponent, Erskine Bowles by 5 percentage points. The Burr, Bowles election was one of the most expensive senate elections in the country, coming to a total of $26 million. Since the election, Bowles has gained a lot of respect for Burr, saying that “Nobody works harder or Smarter for North Carolina than Richard Burr does.” Burr became a senior senate in 2008 when Kay Hagan was elected.

Richard Burr serves on several committees, including the Committee on Armed Services, the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions, the Committee on Veteran’s Affairs, and the Intelligence Committee. Burr is a strong supporter of pro-life, the second amendment gun rights, the death penalty, and the war. He also co-sponsored a bill that prohibited the creation of human-animal hybrids. He is not very popular with the public, though, a couple of the reasons being that he is against gay marriage and received low ratings from some environmental-protection organizations. Burr is listed as one of the Senators most likely to have a difficult time being re-elected in 2010, because only 29% of people support him.

Obama’s health care reform does not appeal to him at all for several reasons. He believes that it ignores the demand of American people, will raise taxes, will lead to rationed care, and will result in a Government takeover of the people’s healthcare decisions. Some of Richard Burr’s current issues include addressing the high school dropout crisis, fiscal responsibility, health care reform, improving our economy, supporting military families, veteran’s legislations, and winning the war on terror.

Burr, Richard. "Richard Burr: US Senator North Carolina." http://burr.senate.gov/public/

(accessed 20 September 2010).