

Rep. Jason Spencer R-180

## **Biography**

Born to a military family on Offutt Air Force Base in Nebraska, Rep. Jason Spencer understood from an early age our nation is free because of the brave. His family was then stationed at Moody Air Force Base in Valdosta, Georgia in 1978 where he grew up in base housing. A year later, the family settled just outside of the small farming community of Alapaha, Georgia where Jason and his siblings attended elementary school.

While growing up in South Georgia to a modest family, he learned the value of hard work where summer jobs included picking peppers and cropping tobacco. Jason graduated from Berrien County High School in Nashville, Georgia in 1993.

After high school graduation, he attended Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College (ABAC) in Tifton where he played tennis for ABAC in 1994 as a walk-on. During his time in Tifton, he secured a full athletic scholarship to play tennis at Alabama State University. Later, he transferred to the University of Georgia (UGA) and graduated with a Bachelor's degree in Exercise & Sport Science in 1997.

After graduating from UGA, Jason sought professional training to become a physician assistant (PA-C) and received his second Bachelors of Science degree from South University, Savannah in 2001 where he graduated *magna cum laude*. In 2005, he received his Masters of Physician Assistant Studies (MPAS) with an emphasis on Emergency Medicine from the University of Nebraska Medical Center. Camden County, Georgia became Rep. Spencer's home in 2005 where he has practiced Family and Urgent Care Medicine as a PA in Kingsland, Georgia and in surrounding communities in southeast Georgia, like Waycross, Brunswick and Jesup. He currently practices Emergency Medicine as a PA in various emergency departments in small rural hospitals around southeast Georgia as well in a major metropolitan emergency department in Jacksonville, Florida.

Rep. Spencer is currently serving his fourth term in the Georgia House of Representatives. He was first elected to the Georgia General Assembly to represent the 180th House District in 2010 and was re-elected in 2012, 2014 & 2016. He currently sits on the following committees in the

State House: Science & Technology; Games, Fish & Parks; Juvenile Justice; Human Aging & Relations and serves as the Secretary to the House Special Rules Committee. During his time in the legislature, Rep. Spencer has passed legislation that relaxed "liveaboard" boating restrictions, legalized home brew beer competitions in Georgia and, most notably, passed key legislation (The Georgia Healthcare Freedom Act, HB 943, 2014) which

defended Georgia from some of the more onerous provisions of the Affordable Care Act (aka, Obamacare) and he co-authored <u>HB 990 (2014)</u>, which prevented Georgia from expanding Obamacare's budget busting Medicaid expansion program.

Rep. Spencer has also been an advocate for survivors of child sexual abuse where he introduced and passed landmark statute of limitations (SOL) reform legislation known as the <u>Georgia Hidden Predator Act</u> (HB 17, 2015). This legislation removed or extend the civil SOL so survivors can gain access to justice and expose the identities of hidden pedophiles in the state of Georgia.

Rep. Spencer also serves as the legislative point of contact inside the General Assembly on matters dealing with the emerging commercial space industry in Georgia as a result of the creation of Spaceport Camden, which is located in his district. In 2017, representative introduced and passed key legislation, known as the Georgia Space Flight Act (House Bill 1, 2017), to attract the commercial space industry to Georgia and to assist in the development of a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to bring high paying aerospace jobs to Southeast Georgia.

Rep. Jason Spencer is happily married to his wife Melaney. The couple has two daughters, Madeline and Vera and they are members of the Harbor Worship Center in Kingsland, Georgia.