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For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell Gives an Emotional Speech Concerning Senate Bill 757, Various Court Districts Changes

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Sent: Wednesday, June 06, 2018 9:04 AM



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate Mecklenburg County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 6, 2018

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Senator Joyce Waddell Gives an Emotional Speech Concerning Senate Bill 757, Various Court Districts Changes

Charlotte, NC – On Tuesday, June 5, the North Carolina Senate voted on Senate Bill 757, Various Court Districts Changes, which would make changes to the Superior Court Districts, District Court Districts, and Prosecutorial Districts in Mecklenburg County.

Senator Joyce Waddell made remarks on the Senate Floor in the General Assembly prior to the voting of Senate Bill 757:

“Senate Bill 757 limits the ability of the public to decide who should serve as Judges in their community. District Court Judges are Judges of General Jurisdiction and hold the “People’s Court” and therefore, should be elected by the people we serve. We have litigants from all over the County, and this bill would possibly limit who each litigant would appear before. The bill and map is a gerrymandered map that attempts to concentrate Mecklenburg County by race.

Several judges would have to run an election in 2018 or move in 2020 as a result of the limitations being placed on seats in each district. The Districts are being created specifically to allow for certain individuals to have a chance to run in a district who otherwise would not be successful in a countywide race. The solution to perceived issues would be to allow everyone, Superior and District Judges, to run in countywide elections. Why isn’t this being proposed? Because the goal is to eliminate the diversity on the bench and allow for the expansion of people of the majority race, male or female Republican to have a better shot at becoming a Judge.

The current makeup and diversity of this bench will be forever changed. We currently have a bench made up of diverse men and women from all economic backgrounds, race, and ethnicity. We have yet to hear why these maps are necessary. This is a way of getting more Republicans into office and trying to even the field,” said Senator Joyce Waddell.

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