



Mail



Calendar



Contacts



Email Settings



Deleted Items (2)



Drafts [3]



Inbox



Junk E-Mail



Sent Items

[Click to view all folders](#) ▼**15-07** (323)**15-08** (93)**15-09** (76)**15-10** (32)**15-11** (16)[Manage Folders...](#)**Senator Joyce Waddell's November 18, 2015 Newsletter**

Jyrita Moore (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljla@ncleg.net]

**Sent:** Wednesday, November 18, 2015 8:59 AM

Senator Joyce Waddell's November 18, 2015 Newsletter

**Senator Joyce Waddell**

NC Senate

300 N Salisbury Rd, Suite 515

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and  
Mecklenburg County***Committees**Appropriations on Education/  
Higher Education

Commerce

Finance

Insurance

Pensions &amp; Retirement and Aging

State and Local Government

Workforce and Economic

Development

Add Me on Facebook



Follow Me on Twitter!



NCGA Information



My Website

**The Waddell  
Weekly Bulletin**

Vol. I Ed. 18

November 18,  
2015***Dear Friends:***

I wish to extend a warm holiday greeting to you and yours as we approach Thanksgiving and Christmas. The time away from the legislature has allowed me to reflect on my efforts in the last session and reassert myself for the coming year to do my best work for families in North Carolina.

GOP leadership has placed corporations ahead of the middle-class family for too long, and the families of North Carolina deserve better. In the coming year, I plan on fighting for a reapplication of our focus as a state to improve the lives of our North Carolina citizens.

In a recent press announcement, Governor McCrory celebrated the accomplishment of raising the Unemployment Trust Fund to one billion dollars. This is a stark turnaround from 2013, when the trust was sitting a deficit of two and a half billion dollars. This immediate change stems from deep cuts made to unemployment benefit payouts for those who are currently unemployed.

[Senate Bill 15, Unemployment Insurance Law Changes](#), was signed into law on September 10, 2015. One of the numerous changes made to the unemployment insurance laws included the suspension of the 20% surcharge for the tax year of 2016 if the amount in the Unemployment Trust Fund should equal or exceed \$1 billion by March 1, 2016. By reaching the \$1 billion reserve level, employers now have more than \$600 million in taxes this fiscal year to hire new employees and will no longer have to pay a 20% surcharge.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, North Carolina now ranks in the basement at 49th in the country for the percentage of jobless workers who receive benefits. Only 13% receive assistance, down from 39% in the 2nd quarter of 2013, before the overhaul was enacted. The North Carolina Budget and Tax Center have expressed their concerns with these drastic changes and to the long term impact on unemployed citizens.

While I am pleased that we have the extraneous funds to use for bolstering our jobless citizens toward gainful employment, I cannot help but feel remorse for the families that encountered undue struggles because of these deep, painful cuts. Jobless workers struggle to find employment in the labor market with limited access to skills training opportunities. Now that we have reached this benchmark, it is time to reevaluate our payout system and how we can help those in need.

North Carolina cannot afford to rank last in these important statistical categories. It is our job to provide assistance to those who need it, and I only hope that my fellow Senators and Representatives will agree with me in making the success of North Carolina families a key issue.

I cannot achieve anything without the support of my constituents. Thank you very much for your continued support!

Please continue to refer to the North Carolina General Assembly website [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net). You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices and review the in depth citizen's guide.

I look forward to hearing from you!

## Session News

- [\*\*Legacy Medical Care Facility/CON Exempt \(Senate Bill 698 / S.L. 2015-288\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 698 provides existing hospital facilities that have closed for over six months and are not currently operating from Certificate of Need (CON) laws an exemption to avoid going through a certification process. CON requires a builder to plan for the population that will be serviced to avoid oversaturating the market and forcing patients to meet the costs of operators. This exemption will remove a recently closed facility from the list of necessary consideration for builders. Senate Bill 698 assists with reopening hospitals in Belhaven, NC and Yadkinville, NC. I voted in support of this legislation. Governor Pat McCrory signed this bill into law on October 29, 2015.
- [\*\*Reegan's Rule/Enforce Pharm. Ben. Mgt \(Senate Bill 694 / S.L. 2015-273\)\*\*](#) – Reegan's Rule is a new provision that will require physicians, physician's assistants, and certified nurse practitioners to begin early discussion with parents about the symptoms and warning signs about Type 1 diabetes at least once at the following age intervals: birth, twelve months, twenty-four months, thirty-six months, forty-eight months, and sixty months. By learning more about the disease, parents can make appropriate changes to their child's lifestyle. I voted in support of this legislation. Governor Pat McCrory signed this legislation into law on October 20, 2015.
- [\*\*Grad Requirements/Sports Pilot \(Senate Bill 524 / S.L. 2015-291\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 524 alters the graduation requirement for high school students in regards to the fundamental tenets of American History with a new emphasis on conservative ideals such as the limitations of local and federal government. The second portion of this bill creates a pilot program for further integrating students with disabilities into after-school and extracurricular sports programs. The Department of Public Instruction (DPI) uses funds to develop and implement the pilot program throughout the 2017 school year for schools across the state. I voted in support of this legislation. Governor Pat McCrory signed this bill into law on October 29, 2015.
- [\*\*Waive Tuition/Fallen Officer Was Guardian \(Senate Bill 37 / S.L. 2015-296\)\*\*](#) – Senate Bill 37 will provide the children of law enforcement officers, fire fighters, volunteer firefighters, and rescue squad workers with a waiver of tuition for the UNC and Community College Systems if their legal guardian or custodian was killed or fully disabled in their line of work. The children will be offered full tuition coverage to any Community College System or any University of North Carolina school. I voted in support of this legislation. Governor Pat McCrory signed this bill into law on October 30, 2015.
- [\*\*NCNG Tuition Assistance Benefit Amendment \(House Bill 709 / S.L. 2015-298\)\*\*](#) – House Bill 709 allows active members of the North Carolina National Guard who are enrolled in a program granting a graduate certificate to be eligible for the North Carolina National Guard Tuition Assistance Benefit. The North Carolina National Guard Assistance Program is administered by the State Education Assistance Authority. I voted in support of this legislation. Governor Pat McCrory signed this bill into law on October 30, 2015.

## In Charlotte, NC



Senator Joyce Waddell participates in the Sixth Annual Smith Institute Invitational Symposium at Johnson C. Smith University to focus on the following themes: *Addressing the Disparities of Black Males in Charlotte's Northwest Corridor: From Episodic Attention to Sustained Effort* and *Cognitive v. Non-cognitive Factors: Flipping Orthodoxies* on November 5-6, 2015.



Senator Joyce Waddell attends the bill signing ceremony in support of Senate Bill 37, Waive Tuition/Fallen Officer Was Guardian, and meets the law enforcement officers, firefighters, and rescue squad workers, on October 30, 2015.



Senator Joyce Waddell welcomes the new Chancellor of UNC Wilmington and discusses her position on Senate education on November 4, 2015.

## The County News



Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant Jyrita Moore at 919-733-5650 or by email at [waddelljla@ncleg.net](mailto:waddelljla@ncleg.net)

All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at [www.ncleg.net](http://www.ncleg.net). Once on the site, select "**Audio**" and then make your selection: House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Committee Room or Press Conference Room. A schedule of committee meetings and other events is also available on the website.

To unsubscribe from this newsletter please click [here](#)