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Senator Joyce Waddell's March 31, 2016 Newsletter

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

Sent: Thursday, March 31, 2016 4:35 PM

Senator Joyce Waddell's March 31, 2016 Newsletter

Senator Joyce Waddell
 NC Senate
 300 N Salisbury Rd, Suite 515
 Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and
 Mecklenburg County*

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**The Waddell
 Weekly Bulletin****Vol. 2 Ed. 3 March 31, 2016****Dear Friends:**

The North Carolina General Assembly is currently accepting applications for the 2016 North Carolina Senate Page Program. This program offers high school students the opportunity to participate in the legislative process of our state. The Senate Pages will have the unique privilege of working on the Senate Chamber floor in the midst of legislative action. Applicants must be at least 15 years of age or be in the ninth grade at the time of service.

Senate Pages are important to the operation of the General Assembly as they assist the members and staff of the Senate during the legislative session. They serve in the Senate Chamber during daily sessions, attend committee meetings, and perform other duties including, but not limited to, delivering messages and materials within the legislative complex, answering phones in senators' offices, and participating in activities arranged for the enhancement of their overall educational experience. Senate Pages will be appointed to serve weeks beginning with April 25, and continuing to the end of June.

Students interested in participating in the 2016 North Carolina Senate Page Program should contact my office at joyce.waddell@ncleg.net or 919-733-5650. If you have any questions or wish to learn more about the North Carolina Senate Page Program, please contact the Senate Page Coordinator, Michael Perdue, at Michael.Perdue@ncleg.net or 919-733-5702.

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. You will be able to track legislation, sign up for committee notices, and review the citizen's guide.

I encourage you to contact us with your thoughts, comments, or suggestions. Please feel free to have others join in on conversation by sending contact information to Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net.

I look forward to hearing from you!

2016 Special Session 2

- [Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act \(House Bill 2 / S.L. 2016-3\)](#) – On February 22, 2016, the Charlotte City Council passed an ordinance that provided anti-discrimination protections for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) citizens. A provision in the law would allow transgendered individuals to use public bathrooms that correspond to their gender identity. Opponents of the ordinance expressed concerns that men will use the women’s bathroom, threatening the safety and privacy of women and children, and the rule will infringe on the rights of business owners. The ordinance was scheduled to take effect on April 1, 2016. However, the North Carolina General Assembly was called into a special legislative session to overturn the Charlotte City Council’s bathroom ordinance.

On March 23, 2016, House Bill 2 was signed into law by the Governor. The Public Facilities Privacy & Security Act requires transgender individuals to use the bathroom according to the gender on their birth certificate and prevents local governments from passing any nondiscrimination ordinances. Opponents of House Bill 2 are concerned that the bill discriminates against LGBT individuals in the workplace.

Summary of House Bill 2:

- Requires local boards of education and public agencies to designate and require the use of single sex multiple occupancy bathrooms and changing facilities based on a person's biological sex, as stated on that person's birth certificate.
- Allows local boards of education and public agencies to provide single occupancy bathrooms upon request due to special circumstances.
- Individuals permitted to enter restrooms of the opposite sex may only do so for maintenance purposes, emergency medical assistance and aid of an individual as an authorized caregiver, or if the individuals themselves are being assisted.
- Prohibits cities and counties from establishing their own workers’ rights laws regarding, benefits, wages, leave and well-being of minors.
- Maintains prohibition on discrimination against individuals by race, religion, color, national origin, age, biological sex or handicap.

In Charlotte, NC



Senator Joyce Waddell discusses important legislation concerning voter identification at a meeting in Charlotte on February 27, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell attends the special opening celebration of Particle Falls to learn about the importance of clean air in the environment on Friday, March 4, 2016.

The County News

From the desk of Senator Joyce Waddell North Carolina still facing economic trouble since the recession

CHARLOTTE, NC – According to a recent report by North Carolina's Budget and Tax Center, the state's unemployment rate remained at 5.6 percent despite the national rate falling below five percent in January. The average weekly wages were around \$100 below the national average. The trade industry has continued to struggle, with 70,000 fewer manufacturing jobs than there were before the recession, and 60,000 less for construction positions. There are not enough jobs to employ all of the citizens seeking employment. Recent cuts to unemployment insurance and assistance are making life even more difficult for many North Carolina citizens.

The Economic Innovation Group uses a Distressed Communities Index (DCI) to gauge communities' level of economic hardships. Distressed cores are calculated at the zip code level and ranked based on the following factors: housing va-

cancy rates, the number of adults working, the poverty rate, and median income, number of people with high school degrees, change in employment and the rate of business formation. North Carolina ranks 11th in the nation for the share of its population living in distressed communities. One in four North Carolinians lives in a distressed community.

"Our legislature must work hard to make smart investments that promote job growth. There are communities in North Carolina that are still hurting from the 2008 recession and continue to face economic hardships. I will continue to promote smart economic growth, create new jobs, and raise wages for hard-working citizens," said Senator Joyce Waddell.



Waddell

THE COUNTY NEWS

news

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From the desk of Senator Joyce Waddell School dropout rates increasing

CHARLOTTE, NC – More than half of North Carolina's counties are experiencing a rise in school dropout rates. According to a state report from the Public Schools of North Carolina, State Board of Education, and Department of Public Instruction, all grade levels and almost all races and ethnicities have experienced an increase of nearly 8 percent in the 2014-2015 school year.

A few factors that contribute to the dropout rate include academic problems, employment opportunities outside of school, and attendance. There is speculation that the rise in school dropouts is due to a need for higher quality teachers, as many are leaving the state in search of better pay. The high teacher turnover rate implies that educators are becoming more and more disheartened with their profession.

"This revolving door of instructors, fueled by lagging teacher pay, makes it difficult for students to connect with their teachers. Our state will continue to see a decline in the quality of our education system if something is not done within the legislature to rectify the decline of teacher pay. If our citizenry becomes less educated, we will certainly witness the degeneration of productivity in our workforce," said Senator Joyce



Waddell

Senator Waddell's office is open Monday through Friday during Session. You may reach her office by calling her Legislative Assistant, Jyrta Moore, at 919-733-5650 or by email at waddelljla@ncleg.net.

All committee meetings and press conferences can be heard on the General Assembly's website at 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.

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