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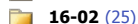


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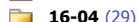
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## Senator Joyce Waddell's May 9, 2016 Newsletter

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

Sent: Monday, May 09, 2016 4:25 PM

Senator Joyce Waddell's May 9, 2016 Newsletter

**Senator Joyce Waddell**

NC Senate

300 N. Salisbury Street, Suite 515

Raleigh, NC 27603-5925

*Serving District 40 and  
Mecklenburg County*


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## The Waddell Weekly Bulletin

**Vol. 2 Ed. 5      May 9, 2016**


### Dear Friends:

The General Assembly is in the second week of short session, and I have not wasted any time to promote legislation that addresses the issues facing the families and youths of our state. My primary objective is to improve our state's education system. Some policies adopted in previous sessions are making quality education a scarce commodity. North Carolina's policy of using public school funds to pay for private school vouchers has placed priority on upper-middle and upper-class households. There is nothing inherently wrong with making quality education accessible to successful North Carolinians. However, as legislators, our duty is to the citizenry as a whole. We must ensure that the value of public education meets a reasonable baseline to ensure that our state's youth have opportunities for upward mobility commensurate with their wealthier peers.

To correct the erosion of our state's public school programs, we must find a cost-effective way of restructuring the programs that are already in place and reviving policies that have seen prior success. It is important that we raise teacher pay to a level comparable with that of our surrounding states. We must remedy the issues and inconsistencies that have led to the departure of educators. We must shift the education burden away from local governments and balance school funding at the state level.

There are a few spots currently available for students interested in participating in the 2016 North Carolina Senate Page Program. Students interested in the program should contact my office at [joyce.waddell@ncleg.net](mailto: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](mailto: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](http://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](mailto:Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net).*

*I look forward to hearing from you!*

## Session News

• [Confirm Robert Schurmeier/ SBI Director \(House Joint Resolution 982 / Res. 2016-4\)](#) – This

legislation appoints Robert Schurmeier from Mecklenburg County as the new State Bureau of Investigation Director beginning July 1. Schurmeier was a Charlotte police officer and a corporate security consultant. After being confirmed by the General Assembly, he will start his eight-year term on July 1. This bill was ratified on May 5, 2016.

- [UNC Fixed Tuition Plan](#) – I proposed this legislation that would establish a system that guarantees a set tuition rate for any constituent institution in the University of North Carolina system. The fixed tuition plan would be managed by the Board of Governors and become available to students seeking baccalaureate degrees. The plan allows students at any level in undergraduate studies to enroll in this program and would fix tuition for the remainder of their time in undergraduate studies. Students already enrolled in a baccalaureate program at the time that this bill takes effect would be eligible to receive fixed tuition. Students would be required to remain enrolled at the institution where they applied for this program unless extraneous factors justify a disruption in their education. Disruptions deemed admissible in regards to this plan include military service, medical exclusions, disability, or extraordinary hardship. This legislation would be effective when it becomes law.
- [Opp. Scholarship Military Child Eligibility \(Senate Bill 742\)](#) – This bill seeks to add the children of military families as eligible recipients of opportunity grant scholarship programs. It would allow children living below the poverty line who have not yet finished high school to be eligible for opportunity grants. The children must be full-time students who attended public school the year prior, received a grant the previous year, are in kindergarten or first grade, were adopted not more than a year before, or has a parent who is on full-time active duty in a branch of the military, reserves, or National Guard. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation.
- [Child Welfare System Recommendations \(Senate Bill 785\)](#) – This proposed legislation would analyze, diagnose, and improve the child welfare system in North Carolina. It would bring the state into compliance with national standards for child welfare policies. A strategic plan would be developed for Child Protective Services to address the state welfare system by analyzing the issues specific to each county. Social Services would continue to complete the child welfare component of the North Carolina Families Accessing Services Through Technology (NCFAST) system and ensure that the tracking of children and outcomes across counties meet federal guidelines. I am a co-sponsor of this legislation.

## At the General Assembly



Senator Joyce Waddell stands with her Democratic colleagues and The North Carolina Association of Educators at a press conference on National Teacher Appreciation Day to address education funding and the need to restore respect to the education profession on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell makes adjournment remarks in honor of all of the dedicated teachers in North Carolina at session on National Teacher Appreciation Day on Tuesday, May 3, 2016.



Senator Joyce Waddell listens to the concerns of the representatives of the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) on Wednesday, May 4, 2016.

## 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.

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