

- Mail
- Calendar
- Contacts
- Email Settings
- Deleted Items
- Drafts (8)
- Inbox (2)
- Junk E-Mail
- Sent Items
- Click to view all folders >
- 16-04 (29)
- 16-05 (25)
- 16-06 (16)
- 16-07 (26)
- Manage Folders...

Reply Reply to All Forward Move Delete Close

Rep. Carla Cunningham July 2016 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com@mail129.suw14.mcdvl.net] on behalf of Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Monday, August 01, 2016 12:25 PM
 To: Steve Johnston

Keeping you connected to the North Carolina General Assembly.

Is this email not displaying correctly? View it in your browser.

Representative Carla D. Cunningham
 106th District, Mecklenburg County
 Carla.Cunningham@ncleg.net

You can listen to legislative session, committee meetings, and press conferences LIVE on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net

- Friend on Facebook
- Follow on Twitter
- Forward to a Friend

THE RALEIGH REPORT

You can listen to legislative session, committee meetings, and press conferences LIVE on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net

July 28, 2016

My view on Community Relations and Law Enforcement

Over the past few years, we have endured numerous reports of police shootings of African Americans. It has been difficult to watch the unfolding of how these incidents have been handled in the country. However, no matter how difficult it has been to watch the loss of life due to Gun Violence we must address the underlying causes of this violence. As a mother of two adult African American children, I understand the fear and anxiety that African American children are experiencing in this country and I am very concerned that their fears and anxiety when dealing with law enforcement will continue to be un-validated by this society.

I am equally concerned that this long-term exposure to the explicit nature of these shootings being depicted in multiple media outlets will have a psychological impact on our children, and that the multiplicity of issues that our children are dealing with will not just go away. We must seek solutions that will empower them, such as educating them on the laws that govern Law Enforcement, and how to advocate for valid policy change. We must also seek to work within our community to alleviate poverty, unemployment, and institutional racism. We have a task before us. I have engaged with numerous young people in the community and hope to continue a lasting dialogue on the issues important to them.

I have also met with Charlotte Mecklenburg Police Chief Putney, Mecklenburg County Sheriff Carmichael, and District Attorney Andrew Murray since being out of session. I learned a lot from these meetings and feel there is still work to do to alleviate the distrust between Law Enforcement, the Judicial System, and the Community. We cannot sit on the sidelines and do nothing; we cannot just do a photo-op, get on Facebook, twitter, or just pray, we must seek to make change through policymaking, which is a daunting, and long process. However, we must do it through policymaking. Know it takes all of us working together to make change; no one person makes change alone.

Thank You
 Rep. Carla D. Cunningham
 106th District

NCGA Leaves Many High Profile Bills on the Table

The North Carolina General Assembly finished work on the state budget and a bill modifying the controversial House Bill 2, but lawmakers concluded their business for the year without passing a number of high-profile measures. Legislators adjourned sine die July 1, 2016. That means, barring a gubernatorial veto or specially called session, the General Assembly won't return to work until January 2017. "There comes a time when you just have to say, 'We're done,'" Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger said. "We're done."

Read more here: <http://www.wral.com/several-high-profile-bills-left-behind-by-lawmakers/15822629/>

Governor Signs 16 Bills, Heads on Out of State Vacation

The Governor's office said he is on a long-scheduled trip with First Lady Ann McCrory. The governor is not permitted to sign bills while he is out of state. He returns to North Carolina next week. McCrory is expected to sign the budget bill later this month. He has until 11:59 p.m. July 31 to sign, veto or let bills become law without his signature. The governor has not publicly indicated that he has problems with any of the pending bills. Among the 16 signed bills the governor's office reported on Wednesday is House Bill 1033, which waives the fee for an identification card for those with developmental disabilities. The special cards are currently issued without fees to those who are blind, at least 70 years old, physically disabled or homeless.

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article87980322.html>

Federal Court Strikes Wake County Redistricting

A three judge panel at the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals has struck down two General Assembly redistricting measures. The ruling caught lawmakers at a chaotic time, as they're holding closed-door meetings to consider changes to House Bill 2, while trying to adjourn for the year, prior to the July 4th weekend. In 2013, Republicans at the state legislature redrew district boundaries for Wake County School Board. Last year, they approved new maps for Wake County Commissioners. A group of citizens then filed a lawsuit against the General Assembly for violating state and federal rights to one person, one vote. On Friday, a three judge panel out of the federal Appellate Court in Richmond, Virginia sided with those citizens and ruled the maps unconstitutional.

Read more here: <http://wunc.org/post/federal-appeals-court-strikes-down-wake-co-redistricting-measures/>



Fayetteville Bojangles Sued for Discrimination

The federal agency that enforces workplace discrimination laws is going to court on behalf of a transgender employee fired from a North Carolina fast-food restaurant. U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission said Wednesday that it's filed a lawsuit against Bojangles Restaurants Inc. The EEOC accuses the company of subjecting a transgender employee to a hostile work environment because of her gender identity. The lawsuit also alleges Bojangles fired Jonathan Wolfe in retaliation for reporting the sexual harassment.

Read more here: <http://abc11.com/news/bojangles-sued-over-workplace-for-transgender-employee/1416263/>

Which Education Bills Passed, or Were Held Back, During Short Session

Asked to sum up the 2016 short session of the N.C. General Assembly, Mark Jewell, president of the N.C. Association of Educators, takes very little time. "Disappointing," he groans, roughly three days after state lawmakers wrapped up the session amidst a late-night flurry of negotiations Friday that, strangely, produced little action. When they adjourned with at least two pivotal education bills still on the table and hopes for substantive changes to House Bill 2 this year all but gone, they wrapped a session that was just as contentious, if not nearly as decisive, as years past. Some of the school advocates who've been most critical of the legislature in recent years are somewhat relieved. Yet Jewell, who helms the state's leading lobbying organization for roughly 70,000 educators, is nonplussed.

Read more here: <http://www.ncpolicywatch.com/2016/07/06/making-the-grade-3/>

Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program

If you are employed by a government or not-for-profit organization, you may be able to receive loan forgiveness under the Public Service Loan Forgiveness Program. What is the Public Service Loan forgiveness (PSLF) Program?

The PSLF Program is intended to encourage individuals to enter and continue to work full-time in public service jobs. Under this program, you may qualify for forgiveness of the remaining balance

due on your William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan (Direct Loan) Program loans after you have made 120 qualifying payments on those loans while employed full-time by certain public service employers. Since you must make 120 qualifying payments on your eligible federal student loan after

Oct. 1, 2007, before you can qualify for the loan forgiveness, the first forgiveness of loan balances will not be granted until October 2017.

What federal student loans are eligible for forgiveness under the PSLF Program? Any non-defaulted Direct loan is eligible for loan forgiveness. The Direct Loan Program includes the following loans:

- Direct Subsidized Loans
- Direct Unsubsidized Loans
- Direct PLUS Loans – for parent and graduate or professional students
- Direct Consolidation Loans

What types of public service jobs will qualify a borrower for loan forgiveness under the PSLF Program?

You must be employed full-time (in any position) by a public service organization, or must be serving in a full time AmeriCorps or Peace Corps position. Here are the types of organizations that meet the definition of "public service organization" for purposes of the PSLF Program:

- A government organization (including a federal, state, local, or tribal organization, agency, or entity; a public child or family service agency; or a tribal college or university)
- A not-for-profit, tax-exempt organization under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code
- A private, not-for-profit organization (that is not a labor union or a partisan political organization) that provides one or more of the following public services:

- Emergency management
- Military service
- Public safety
- Law enforcement
- Public interest law services
- Early childhood education (including licensed or regulated health care, Head Start, and state funded prekindergarten)
- Public service for individuals with disabilities and the elderly
- Public health (including nurses, nurse practitioners, nurses in a clinical setting, and full-time
- professionals engaged in health care practitioner occupations and health care support occupations)
- Public education
- Public library services
- School library or other school-based service

Where can I find additional information about the PSLF Program?

Non-Profit to Hold Anti-HB2 Party Inside Governor's Mansion

Did you know that, so long as you're a nonprofit, you can rent out space in the Governor's Mansion for parties and the like? You can! In May, for instance, the Jesse Helms Center threw a shindig for the late senator's friends and supporters. "It's a whole diverse group of folks that rent it," Governor McCrory's communications director explained to the media. "We have not said no to any nonprofit that's asked [to rent it] during his time in office." The folks at Progress NC decided to take the go up on his offer. Next Wednesday evening, as the Air Horn Orchestra's beautiful cacophony of protest blares across the street, the liberal group will host the Garden Party Against Hate inside McCrory's house. How cool is that? The event—essentially, a low-key, no-alcohol viewing party for the orchestra's fourteenth performance—is free, though it's also RSVP only.

Read more here: <http://www.indyweek.com/indyweek/theres-going-to-be-an-anti-hb-2-party-inside-the-governors-house/Content?oid=5048813>

Law Would Put GOP Candidate Name First in Specific Campaign

If signed by Gov. Pat McCrory, a change in state election law approved in the final hours of the 2016 legislative session would ensure the name of Phil Berger Jr. appears first on the ballot in his race against incumbent Court of Appeals Judge Linda Stephens in November. If not for the legislation, Berger's name would have appeared below Stephens' on the November ballot through a random ballot-order method used by the state Board of Elections. Berger, a Republican, is the son of state Senate leader Phil Berger, an Eden Republican. The elder Berger voted for the bill that would result in his son's name being listed first. Numerous studies have shown that being listed first on a ballot can give that candidate at least a slight advantage, especially on down-ballot races like the Court of Appeals race where candidates aren't as well-known as presidential or gubernatorial candidates, for example.

Read more here: <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/under-the-dome/article87979992.html>

5 Terrible Things the NCGA did in Short Session

If you were hoping the state legislature, chastened by the backlash over House Bill 2, might opt for a quiet short session focused on budget tweaks and eschewing hot-button issues, you're probably pretty disappointed right now. Instead, over the last two months, lawmakers found new and sundry ways to move the state backward in areas like public education, police accountability, and the environment. And they once again failed to expand Medicaid, which means a quarter million people in this state have to go without health care so Republicans can beat their chests about the evils of Obamacare, and declined to repeal HB 2, which means the state's reputation remains a shambles.

Read more here: <http://www.indyweek.com/indyweek/five-terrible-things-the-legislature-did-during-the-short-session/Content?oid=5048517>

Heroin use on the rise in the Queen City and in North Carolina

Heroin and opiate drug addiction is on the rise across the nation and in our city, according to government officials in Charlotte. From overdoses to deaths, the numbers are shocking and they are going up, and where it's happening may even be the most surprising.

Teens are getting their hands on the powdery substance called "China White" or black tar then sniffling or snorting it. This quick and cheap high, costing only \$15 or less has side effects that can be paralyzing or even deadly.

According to CMPD, the areas they patrol show how usage is spiking:

HEROIN RELATED ARRESTS BY DIVISION	2013	2014	2015
Central	24	61	42
Eastway	13	14	21
Freedom	23	44	34
Hickory Grove	16	10	26
Independence	14	23	29
Metro	21	27	27
North	10	27	23
North Tryon	19	26	12
Providence	13	10	12
South	18	19	16
Steele Creek	19	17	20
University City	14	23	13
Westover	18	20	22
Airport			2
Unknown/jail/LEC	11	17	14

HEROIN RELATED OVERDOSES BY DIVISION	2013	2014	2015
Central	2	7	2
Eastway	7	10	7
Freedom	2	4	10
Hickory Grove	3	8	13
Independence	9	19	8
Metro	3	7	10
North	9	14	9
North Tryon	6	9	17
Providence	7	12	11
South	19	21	15
Steele Creek	2	9	20
University City	14	23	13
Westover	18	20	22

HEROIN RELATED OVERDOSES BY VICTIM OUTCOME	2013	2014	2015
Deceased	22	31	29
Survived	57	103	108
Total	79	124	135

Where NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) Stands

We recognize that acts of violence by people with mental illness are usually the result of lack of needed mental health services. Policies and programs must be available and accessible which provide access to:

- Early identification and intervention
- Appropriate treatment and support
- Integrated treatment when there is co-occurring substance abuse
- Family education and support
- Crisis intervention

Creating new federal or state gun laws based on mental illness could have the effect of creating more barriers to people being willing to seek treatment and help when they need it most. Solutions to gun violence associated with mental illness lie in improving access to treatment, not in preventing people from seeking treatment in the first place.

Federal and state gun reporting laws should be based on these identified traits, not mental illness. NAMI believes that federal standards about people with mental illness being included in the National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) should be changed.

- Inclusion should be based on current scientific knowledge about what may increase risks of violence among persons with mental illness.

For detailed information—including how to monitor your progress toward qualifying for PSLF—read the PSLF Questions and Answers document at StudentAid.gov/publicservice or contact your federal loan servicer.

REPORT: Expanding Medicaid Could Decrease Infant Mortality

More babies born in Buncombe County could survive their first year and live healthier lives if their mothers got health care before pregnancy through Medicaid expansion, according to a new report by NC Child. The report finds one in five women of reproductive age (19-44) statewide are uninsured, more than half of whom (about 175,000) fall in the health insurance coverage gap—their incomes are too high to qualify for Medicaid and too low to afford private health care. Many factors contribute to infant mortality; the environmental, economic, and social conditions of the communities where parents live can play a big role, but we also know that women's health is a strong predictor of future birth outcomes.

Read more here: <http://mountainx.com/blogwire/nc-child-report-indicates-state-infant-mortality-tied-to-access-to-healthcare-ethnic-disparities/>

Parents Fight Planned Cuts to Families w/ Special Needs Children

Natalie Weaver is proud of her daughter Sophia. While Sophia has battled disabilities, Weaver has fought to keep her 7-year-old at home and out of an institution - something she has been able to do, thanks to North Carolina's Community Alternatives Program for Children, or CAP/C, Medicaid waiver program. "My daughter's life depends on having in home services and having eyes watching her at all times," Weaver said. About 2,200 children are part of the state's CAP/C program, which gives medically fragile children, and their families, access to money for nursing and other special needs. News that the state was reducing those services stunned the Weaver family when they found out Sophia's allotted nursing hours would be cut in half.

Read more here: <http://www.wral.com/parents-fight-against-plan-to-cut-services-for-children-with-special-needs/15880683/>

Church School Official Allegedly Steals \$9 million from Parents, Students

A longtime church school headmaster is accused of embezzling more than \$9 million from the school and its affiliated church that he used to build a \$1 million home, for international travel and to buy a boat and jet ski, luxury vehicles, Carolina Panthers preferred seats, gold and silver coin and gifts for family and friends. Wayne C. Parker Jr., 59, who resigned his position as headmaster of Southlake Christian Academy in Huntersville in September 2014, was charged Friday in federal court with wire fraud, according to a release from U.S. Attorney for the Western District of North Carolina Jill Westmoreland Rose. "For more than a decade, church members, parents, teachers, students and generous donors put their trust in Parker to lead their school and fulfill its goals and mission," Rose said. "Instead, Parker misused his access to the school and church's finances, treating their bank accounts as an endless cookie jar, dipping in repeatedly to fund his lavish lifestyle."

Read more here: <http://www.wyff4.com/news/Church-school-official-accused-of-stealing-9-million-to-fund-lavish-lifestyle/40839924>

Governor Signs Off on Achievement School Districts

As expected, Gov. Pat McCrory has signed House Bill 1080, controversial legislation that will allow for-profit charter takeovers of several low-performing schools in North Carolina. McCrory's office announced the signing Tuesday, although the news was buried in a press release about the governor's signing of legislation intended to help state officials keep track of veterans. It's unclear when the governor gave his seal to the bill. On Tuesday, staff at McCrory's press office did not respond to Policy Watch's inquiries about the signing. The bill, which was opposed by most Democrats and public school backers in the state legislature, creates a statewide "achievement school district" for five low-performing schools.

Read more here: <http://pulse.ncpolicywatch.org/2016/07/27/gov-mccrory-signs-off-on-charter-takeover-of-low-performing-schools/>

Gun Violence, Mental Health

It's an all too familiar story: Another mass shooting occurs and innocent lives are lost. In the aftermath, the media reports, yet again, that the shooter has, or had a mental illness.

We feel all at once sadness, grief and outrage. And the headlines make it easy to believe people with mental illness are violent, in fact, the causes of gun violence and how to stop it are much more complex issues. As we solve complex problems every day and want to play a role in regulating access to guns. Individuals with mental illness are often scapegoats in the wake of gun violence tragedies. At the same time, there are admittedly certain circumstances where mental illness leads to violence, and the individual involved should not have access to firearms. Federal and State government navigate this debate to enact laws that can make a difference.

The majority of violence is committed by people who do not have a diagnosis; however there are certain incidences when this does occur. When it does, there is publicity pulled to this issue of gun violence and mental health. Federal and State government need to keep conversations going beyond the response to gun violence, and have two distinct and separate discussions around support for mental health and gun control.

**Representative Carla D. Cunningham (Dem)
Committee Assignments, 2015-2016 Session**

Standing or Select Committee	Status
Aging	Member
Banking	Member
Children, Youth, and Families	Member
Education - Community Colleges	Member
Finance	Member
Public Utilities	Vice-Chairman
Regulatory Reform	Member

Non-Standing Committee	Status
Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services	Advisory Member

Special Thanks

Thank you for voicing your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls, and office visits. I appreciate receiving input from you and am honored to have served you in the 2015-2016 Legislative Session.

Please feel free to contact my Legislative Assistant Ms. Sherrie Burnette at 919-733-5807 (cunninghamla@ncleg.net) or me at 704-509-2939 (Carla.cunningham@ncleg.net) if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to serve you.

You can listen to legislative sessions, committee meetings, and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "Audio" and then make your selection for the House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Press Conference Room or Appropriations Committee Room.

- States should be provided with clear guidance about who should be reported and who should not be reported.
- The highly offensive and outdated wording currently in the NICS reporting law, specifically individuals "adjudicated as being mentally defective," should be eliminated.
- Establishing strong safeguards to protect the privacy of individuals whose names are included in federal and state gun reporting databases to make sure that the identities of such individuals are not shared or used for any other purposes.

[What NAMI Is Doing](#)

NAMI advocates for the federal government and states should fund programs focused on early identification, early intervention and evidence-based mental health treatments. Investment in research to better identify traits that predict gun violence is also necessary.

NAMI is a grassroots organization. They rely on people like us to advocate for these services in our community. Connect with our local NAMI to help advocate for funding and create opportunities for partnerships with other community organizations. - See more at: <http://www.nami.org/Learn-More/Mental-Health-Public-Policy/Violence-and-Gun-Reporting-Laws#sthash.KHRwanBO.dpuf>

[follow on Twitter](#) | [friend on Facebook](#) | [forward to a friend](#)

Copyright © 2016 Rep. Carla D. Cunningham. All rights reserved.
You are receiving this email because you are a resident of Mecklenburg County.
Our mailing address is:
Rep. Carla D. Cunningham
6129 Sunbridge Court
Charlotte, NC 28269



[Add us to your address book](#)

[unsubscribe from this list](#) | [update subscription preferences](#)