

Senator Joyce Waddell's February 14, 2017, Newsletter

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

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Senator Joyce Waddell
 NC Senate
 1113 Legislative Building
 16 West Jones Street
 Raleigh, NC 27601-2808

*Serving District 40 and
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**The Waddell
 Weekly Bulletin**

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**February 14,
 2017**

**Dear Friends:**

The 2017-18 legislative long session is slowly but surely moving along. State lawmakers continue to file bills for consideration. The Senators must meet the deadline of March 15 to file local bills and March 30 to file public bills.

Democratic legislators introduced legislation to repeal the controversial measure, [House Bill 2](#), and create LGBT protections statewide. [House Bill 82, Equality For All/Repeal HB2](#), was filed on Thursday to extend nondiscrimination protections to every citizen across the state. The legislation includes protections for veteran status, age, sexual orientation, gender identity, and marital status. The National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) will make a decision on the location of championship games through 2022 by March 1 if House Bill 2 is not repealed.

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!

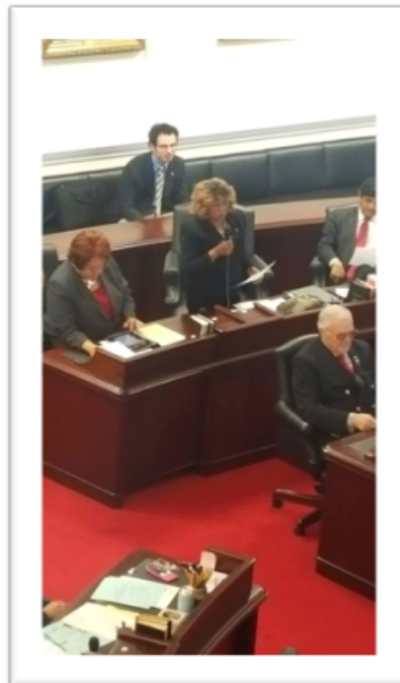
Legislative Update

- [SOG Pilot Project Standards/PED \(Senate Bill 43\)](#) – This bill requires the UNC School of Government (SOG) to research and develop standards for sound evaluation of pilot projects. The SOG should make a preliminary report summarizing the research findings to the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee, the Director of the Program Evaluation Division, and the Office of State Budget and Management by December 1, 2017. The Office of State Budget and Management should adopt rules to implement the standards proposed

by the SOG. Senator Joyce Waddell is a primary sponsor of this legislation.

- **[Charlotte Firefighters' Retirement System \(Senate Bill 54/House Bill 58\)](#)** – Senator Joyce Waddell introduced this legislation which supports the Charlotte Firefighter's Retirement System. Under the current law, the final average salary means the monthly average compensation received during any two consecutive Plan Years of Membership Service over the past five years which produced the highest average. This legislation amends the definition of final average salary to the higher of: (1) the monthly average compensation received during the two highest consecutive Plan Years of the Member's last five years of Membership Service or (2) the monthly average compensation received during the 104 weeks preceding the end of the Member's Membership Service.
- **[BOR/Independent Staff/Data Tracking \(Senate Bill 44/House Bill 22\)](#)** – Senator Joyce Waddell co-sponsored this legislation which enhances the efficiency of the Board of Review. The purpose of the Board of Review is to develop, document, and adopt policies, procedures, and standards necessary to support higher-level operations. This legislation requires the Board of Review to be supported by adequate legal and support staff. The staff should perform its duties independent of the Governor, the General Assembly, the Department of Commerce, and the Division of Employment Security. Senator Joyce Waddell is a co-sponsor of this legislation.

At the General Assembly



Senator Joyce Waddell honors the 100th Birthday of Rosalia Durante in a Senatorial Statement during Session on Tuesday, February 7, 2017.

The County News

From the desk of Senator Joyce Waddell

2017-18 Legislative Priorities

CHARLOTTE, NC – The House and Senate Democrats held a press conference on Wednesday to present their legislative agenda for the 2017-18 Session. The priorities include a full repeal of House Bill 2, raising teacher pay, progressive tax policies, and Medicaid expansion.

Repeal House Bill 2: House Bill 2, the controversial measure that limits the rights of LGBT citizens, is a high priority this session as North Carolina has already lost millions of dollars in revenue and investments. It is time to fully repeal this harmful bill and redeem North Carolina's reputation as the welcoming state that protects citizens from all forms of discrimination.

Increase Teacher and Administrator Pay: North Carolina is the 9th largest state in the nation but ranks 41st in teacher pay and 50th in principal pay. The legislature's inability to offer competitive pay has cost North Carolina thousands of fine teachers to other states. North Carolina cannot afford to lose more talented educators. The legislature must raise teacher and administrator pay to show that we value our educators and the countless hours of work they do to provide our children with a sound education and bright future.

Tax Policy: Our tax policies are harmful to small businesses and middle-class families. Wealthy individuals and large corporations have been receiving tax breaks while small businesses and middle-class families pay more in taxes. Progressive tax policies such as Earned-Income Tax Credit, will promote our working families and small businesses.

Medicaid Expansion: Medicaid expansion will benefit low-income citizens who work hard to make a positive contribution to our state. The Republican leadership resisted expanding the program in North Carolina to cover the low-income population. North Carolinians are already paying federal taxes for the program but not reaping the benefits of the expansion. The tax dollars that would be returned if we expanded Medicaid would boost rural hospitals and increase access to health care. North Carolina deserves a government that does not play partisan games when dealing with the health of its citizens.

"The citizens of North Carolina deserve to live in a state that is inclusive, values our hard-working educators, promotes middle-class families and small businesses, and provides health care access to all. We plan to focus on resolving these important matters and protecting the interests of our valuable citizens," said Senator Joyce Waddell.



Waddell

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.

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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