



Mail



Calendar



Contacts



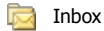
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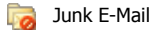
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Drafts [4]



Inbox



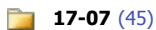
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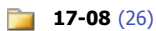
Sent Items

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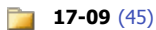
16-12 Grants Committee



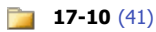
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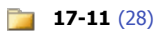
17-08 (26)



17-09 (45)



17-10 (41)



17-11 (28)



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For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's Growing Opioid Problem

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

Sent: Tuesday, November 21, 2017 9:03 AM



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, November 20, 2017

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell

(919) 733-5650

Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net

Growing Opioid Problem

Charlotte, NC – On Tuesday, the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services met to discuss the growing number of opioid-related deaths in North Carolina. On average, three people a day die from opioid overdoses in the state. For every death, there are three hospitalizations and four emergency room visits. Almost half of the people who visit the emergency room for opioid treatment do not have insurance. In Mecklenburg County, opioid addictions exist across all socio-economic classes. In the last decade, opioid-related deaths in Mecklenburg County have increased by 134 percent, from 26 in 2005 to 61 in 2015; the second-highest in the state. State officials are working alongside legislators to create policies and programs that will reverse this trend. Although North Carolina has made some progress in reducing opioid overdoses, there is a lot more work to be done.

In addition to exploring ways to decrease the number of opioid-related deaths that occur each day, legislators are also taking a look at sentencing reforms for opioid crimes that include addiction treatment. Many believe that reducing the state's opioid problem requires a multi-pronged approach.

“The opioid crisis is a statewide issue affecting a number of counties, including Mecklenburg County. It needs to be addressed. I believe that Medicaid expansion could go a long way in helping to better manage this growing problem through accessible treatment options,” said Senator Joyce Waddell.

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