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## For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's Education Lottery and School Nurses

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Sent: Friday, January 26, 2018 8:54 AM


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


### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, January 26, 2018

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### Education Lottery and School Nurses

**Charlotte, NC** – On Monday, members of the Joint Legislative Program Evaluation Oversight Committee met to discuss lottery proceeds for education and school nurses.

The proceeds of the Education Lottery Fund are used to hire teachers, offer academic pre-kindergarten programs, reduce class size in early grades, pay for school instruction, and provide scholarships for needy students. In 2016, the NC Education Lottery generated \$634 million. The Program Evaluation Division of the North Carolina General Assembly presented a report which explored options to increase the lottery proceeds for education. The report recommended expanding the retailer network, such as the ability to play at airports, and to make lottery products more readily available for purchase. The Program Evaluation Division also reported that 36 out of 44 states sell tickets in ABC stores. If North Carolina installed lottery machines in 427 ABC stores across the state, approximately \$8.6 million would be generated to the Education Lottery Fund. Another recommendation is to make the games more enticing to younger players by offering video lottery terminals, similar to slot machines, or iLottery games.

There was also a report submitted that emphasized the growing need for nurses in North Carolina public schools. According to a study, the state would need to dedicate up to \$79 million annually to meet the recommended school nurse-to-student ratio. Currently, only 46 out of the 115 school districts meet the ratio of one school nurse for every 750 students. On average, one nurse covers two to three schools, but some cover as many as six and may be responsible for up to 1,086 public school students. During the 2015-2016 school year, Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools had a student population of 145,444 with one nurse per 889 students and did not achieve the recommended one per school ratio. Due to the lack of school nurses, a large percentage of medical procedures were performed by school employees, making students vulnerable to errors and gaps in emergency medical care.

**“Every public school in North Carolina should be afforded the opportunity to a nurse onboard as staff. A certified nurse is vital and would be instrumental in promoting prevention in the areas of physical and mental health needs of our students. The early detection of illness is important to all in a public school setting. We must meet the 1:750 ratio recommended by the National Association of School Nurses and the State Board of Education,”** said Senator Joyce Waddell.

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