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For Immediate Release - Senator Joyce Waddell's Senate Bill 325, The Uniform and Expanded Early Voting Act

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

Sent: Friday, June 15, 2018 5:13 PM

Attachments: [Senate Bill 325.jpeg \(780 KB\)](#)



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, June 15, 2018

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Senate Bill 325, The Uniform and Expanded Early Voting Act

Charlotte, NC – Today, the North Carolina Senate voted on Senate Bill 325, The Uniform and Expanded Early Voting Act, which would change early voting in the state. The early voting period would end on the Friday before a primary or election day. Currently, the early voting period ends on Saturday.

Senator Joyce Waddell made comments on the Senate floor concerning Senate Bill 325 as a record number of bills were being passed:

“African-Americans take advantage of early voting in significant numbers. Early Voting, including easily-accessible sites and weekend hours, is a popular and vital part of our healthy democracy in North Carolina. Senate Bill 325 eliminates the popular weekend options. In 2016, nearly 200,000 people casted ballots on the last Saturday of early voting. That last Saturday is disproportionately used by African-American voters. Saturday is so important because most people are unable to get off work to vote. This bill unfairly targets poor, working class, and African-American voters. In Mecklenburg County, nearly 30,300 people voted early. This is an increase from about 13,600 four years ago. This bill eliminates the popular, final Saturday of voting. The final Saturday is disproportionately used by African-American voters. We should not disfranchise our voters in any way. Saturday is so important because most people are unable to get off work to vote. This bill unfairly targets poor, working class, and African-American voters,” said Senator Joyce Waddell.

Despite to Senator Waddell’s objections, the bill passed the Senate 23-11.

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