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For Immediate Release Senator Joyce Waddell's "Early Childhood Education Funding"

Clarrissa Greene (Sen. Joyce Waddell) [Waddelljin@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, January 18, 2019 5:38 PM

Attachments: image001.gif (5 KB); image002.jpg (2 KB); image003.jpg (2 KB)

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HD:private:var:folders:y4:3gpn6n190js6w0brcd638j_80000gn:T:TemporaryItems:unnamed.gif]From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate Mecklenburg County

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, January 18, 2019

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Early Childhood Development Funding
Charlotte, NC – The U.S. Administration for Children and Families Office of Child Care (ACF) has awarded North Carolina a \$4.5-million preschool development grant to support the improvement of early childhood programs across the state. Forty-five states and territories received the Preschool Development Birth through Five (PDG B-5) Initial Grant Awards. Announced July 2018, PDG B-5 grants are a new, \$250 million, innovative bipartisan program under the Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA). The competitive PDG B-5 grants, which differ significantly from the previous Preschool Development Grants, are designed to fund states to conduct a comprehensive statewide birth through five needs assessment. Additionally, the grants will support a strategic plan that enables partnership and coordination among existing programs of early childhood care and education. These partnerships focus on the successful transition to kindergarten for low-income and at-risk children. Charlotte-Mecklenburg launched Meck Pre-K program in September 2018 in offering free programs to prepare Charlotte area children for school. The Meck Pr-k program joined Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools, the state of North Carolina and the federal Head Start program to increase access to high-quality programs for low-income families. During the 2017 Session, Senator Joyce Waddell was a primary sponsor for Senate Bill 726, (Go Big For Early Childhood), to provide ongoing, increased funds for the NC Pre-K program and the North Carolina Partnership for Children. The General Assembly acknowledged that due to the continued growth need for early childhood support services and education to North Carolina children, it was key that the State increase funding for the NC Pre-K program. This was referred to committee but was not sent to the floor for a vote. The grant will be administered by the North Carolina Division of Child Development and Early Education, which promotes positive child outcomes by helping families access high quality early care and education. Recipients of the PDG B-5 initial grants will have the opportunity to apply for renewal grants for up to three years.

"The quality of care and education needs to be an ongoing effort by state leaders to meet the continued growth of families statewide. While I am happy that North Carolina has received federal funding to support our efforts, I hope that state leaders will make early childhood education a priority in the upcoming budget. Expanding funding and providing resources for parents is essential for the future success of our children," Said Senator Joyce Waddell

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[Image result for nc state seal]