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Rep. Carla Cunningham March 2019 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Thursday, March 14, 2019 2:46 PM

To: Steve Johnston

Representative Carla D. Cunningham

North Carolina House of Representative

106th District, Mecklenburg County

Carla.Cunningham@ncleg.net

Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee Assignments 2017-2018 Session

Appropriations

Appropriations Health and Human Services

Commerce

Energy and Public Utilities

Health

Wildlife Resources

Non-Standing Committee

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

Appointment by North Carolina

Governor Roy Cooper

North Carolina Commission for Mental Health, Developmental Disabilities, and Substance Abuse Services

Appointments by North Carolina House of Representative Speaker Tim Moore

Minority Health Advisory Council

Associates Advisory Committee Member- Council of State Government (CSG)

Health Public Policy Committee - Council of State Governments (CSG)

North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

North Carolina Institute of Medicine Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program

March 14, 2019



### **House Democrats Introduce Bill to Ratify Equal Rights for Women**

The U.S. Constitution does not guarantee equal rights for women. The Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) would change that. It would guarantee that “[e]quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or any State on account of sex.”

Last week I joined with all 55 of my House Democratic colleagues to sponsor [HB 271](#), a bill to ratify the ERA. If HB 271 becomes law, North Carolina will become the 38<sup>th</sup> state to ratify the amendment. Thirty-eight is a significant number because an amendment must be ratified by 38 of the 50 states (or  $\frac{3}{4}$  of all the states) to go into effect – although because the Congressional original deadline to ratify the ERA has passed we still need Congress to act to extend the deadline.

It is important to ratify the ERA because there will never be equal rights in this country until all laws apply to American citizens regardless of their gender. Families and individuals need non-discrimination in hiring, wages, and working environments.

[Equal pay for women? State lawmakers file ERA bills today](#)

Winston-Salem Journal

[What Is the Equal Rights Amendment, and Why Are We Talking About It Now?](#)

NY Times

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### **Gov. Cooper Proposes State Budget, Education Bond, and Medicaid Expansion**

Typically, the most important piece of legislation in the session is the State Budget. The State Budget bill raises and spends billions of dollars and often includes many important changes in law or policy.

The traditional kick-off to the budget process is the Governor releasing his proposed budget. This year the Governor's budget is particularly important because the General Assembly is more closely divided between Republicans and Democrats and it will be more difficult for Republican leaders to pass a budget over his objections – as has happened the last two years.

Governor Cooper released his budget it has three big parts:

- A teacher pay raise to get NC to the top in the Southeast in teacher pay;
- A strong school bond to build and renovate schools;
- Medicaid expansion to close the health care coverage gap and create health care jobs.



### **Better Pay for Educators**

The governor's plan puts North Carolina on a path to become best in the Southeast in teacher pay in four years. Teachers would see an average pay raise of 9.1% over two years with no teacher receiving less than a 3% raise in either year.

The plan eliminates salary plateaus for veteran teachers, allowing teachers with up to 30 years of service to earn more for each year of service. Under the current teacher pay plan enacted by legislators, teachers who keep working beyond 15 years receive only one pay

raise of \$2,000 after their 24th year of service.

In addition, Gov. Cooper proposes restoring extra pay for teachers who hold a master's degree in the subject they teach and eliminating the requirement that teachers pay for their own substitutes when they take a personal leave day.

[Click here](#) to see Gov. Cooper's proposed teacher pay schedule.

Gov. Cooper's plan also provides experience-based raises for school principals. Principals would earn more based on both experience as a principal and the size of the student body they lead. The plan also restores salary supplements for principals who hold advanced degrees.

[Click here](#) to see Gov. Cooper's proposed principal pay schedule.

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### **Invest NC Bond**

To invest in better schools from kindergarten through college as well as to improve other critical infrastructure, Gov. Cooper proposes putting a bond worth \$3.9 billion to a vote of the people.

The proposed bond would include \$3.1 billion for education efforts, including \$2 billion for K-12 public schools statewide, \$500 million each for facility improvements at community colleges and University of North Carolina System institutions, and \$100 million in the NC History Museum and the NC Zoo.

Also included in the bond proposal would be \$800 million to invest in clean water through local water and sewer projects.

A bond is a fiscally responsible option for making these investments, offering stability for school districts, colleges and universities, and local governments planning their budgets. It also allows the people of North Carolina the chance to voice their opinion on making these public investments.

[Click here](#) for a Fact Sheet on Gov. Cooper's Invest NC Bond Proposal.

[Click here](#) to see how North Carolina public schools could benefit from the Invest NC bond.

[Click here](#) to see how UNC System Schools could benefit from the Invest NC bond.

[Click here](#) to see how North Carolina Community Colleges could benefit from the Invest NC bond.

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### **Future Teachers, Safer Schools**

Gov. Cooper's budget offers \$5 million to recruit, retain, and support quality teachers and \$5.3 million for more professional development opportunities for teachers and school leaders. To bring more good teachers into the profession, Gov. Cooper plans to invest \$4 million to expand the Teaching Fellows program to include more universities and more types of teachers.

To keep schools safe and students healthy, the governor's budget provides \$40 million to hire more school nurses, counselors, psychologists, social workers and school resource officers. His budget also includes \$15 million for safety improvements and training at K-12 schools. Both recommendations were endorsed in a report issued last month by a special school safety committee headed by local sheriffs.

The governor's plan also includes \$29 million in new funding for schools to purchase more textbooks, digital resources, instructional supplies, and enhanced digital learning opportunities for students.

[Cooper confident he now has leverage to get more from lawmakers in budget](#)

WRAL

[For teachers and state workers, here's how much of a raise the governor wants for you](#)

The News & Observer

[Our View: Tough climb ahead for Cooper's budget](#)

Fayetteville Observer

[Medicaid expansion looms large in Cooper's budget bid](#)

North Carolina Health News

[Cooper budget would expand Medicaid](#)

The Robesonian

[Cooper budgets calls for \\$3.9 billion bond referendum, \\$2 billion for schools](#)

The Robesonian

[Cooper seeks \\$3.9B bond package, 9 percent teacher raises](#)

Associated Press

[Cooper Calls Attention To Aging North Carolina Schools](#)

WFAE

[Gov. Cooper's environmental budget adds \\$6 million to tackle emerging contaminants](#)

Progressive Pulse

[Governor Roy Cooper proposes teacher pay raise, affordable housing in two year budget](#)

WBTV

[Gov. Roy Cooper presents full 2-year budget plan](#)

WTVD

[Editorial: Cooper's budget won't fly in assembly, senate](#)

The Time-News

[Roy Cooper asks for \\$2 billion in public school spending in budget proposal](#)

WCNC

[Cooper's State of the State Address aimed for bipartisanship. But are Republicans in?](#)

The Daily Tar Heel

[Governor Cooper Proposes Budget to Invest in Education, Good Jobs, and Healthier Communities; And a Response From House Speaker Tim Moore](#)

High Country Press

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## In the News

### Other News

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WRAL

[Editorial: How's the NC economy? Not as good as Republicans say](#)

The News & Observer

[Meet Cheri Beasley, North Carolina's first Black female Chief Justice](#)

The Daily Tar Heel

[Chief justice says her elevation brings 'hope and promise'](#)

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