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For Immediate Release

Sen. Joyce Waddell [joyce.waddell@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, March 15, 2019 8:00 AM

To: Steve Johnston



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



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, March 15, 2019

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Governor Cooper Proposes Budget Investments

Charlotte, NC- Legislation filed at the North Carolina General Assembly (NCGA) this session introduces more resources for Charlotte Mecklenburg schools and funding for local projects. Governor Roy Cooper released a budget proposal that include strategic investments in quality schools, workforce training, good-paying jobs, and healthier communities.

Ranked as 37th in the country for teacher pay, North Carolina needs to back measures for investing in educators. Advancements in teacher pay is a step needed in expanding education in North Carolina. The budget proposal Includes an average pay raise of 9.1% over two years for current teachers and provides raises for principals based on both experience and school size. In addition, restores extra pay for teachers who hold a master's degree in the subject they teach or earn National Board certification

Governor Cooper proposes allowing people to decide on a \$3.9 billion bond that would fund critical infrastructure repairs across North Carolina without forcing harmful cuts to other critical needs. Benefits from the Invest NC Bond provides \$2 billion for K-12 public schools to help meet the needs for at least \$8 billion in new construction and renovations as 4 in 10 schools are more than 50 years old and lack modern facilities. Also, \$500 million for improvements at community colleges Invests \$500 million for improvements at UNC system schools.

The Governor's budget align with many of the requests that we have been working on at the NCGA filing bills. This budget is just the beginning of a number of negotiations and discussions before the budget becomes final.

"I appreciate the Governor's leadership to provide an opportunity to every student in North Carolina and his effort to match legislature efforts to help grow North Carolina's economy and create good new jobs here at home," Said Senator Joyce Waddell

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