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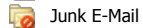
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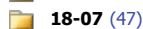
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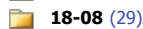
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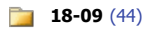

16-12 Grants Committee



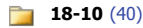
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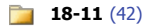
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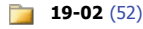
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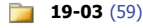
18-10 (40)



18-11 (42)



19-02 (52)



19-03 (59)


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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 04, 2019 1:16 PM

 To: [Steve Johnston](#)
April 4, 2019


Representative Nasif Majeed Serving District 99



UPDATES FROM RALEIGH:

PEACE. Right now, [House Bill 370](#) - Require Sheriff Cooperation with ICE - is a hot button that's being debated. We all know that this bill is not about public safety; it's about campaign politics. Instead of focusing on key issues that would positively impact our community, House leaders would like to play party politics with safety in our communities. Our focus should always be on healthcare and education policies that directly impact our state.

[HB 370](#) makes our communities less safe and more divided. It is opposed by civil rights organizations, North Carolina's sheriffs, and crime victim advocates. Bills that divide us make it harder for all of us to work together, live together, and make our community a welcoming place for all.

NC Medicaid Expansion Remains Blocked by GOP Leaders

Unfortunately, Medicaid expansion to close the coverage gap remains stalled in the NC General Assembly. All 55 House Democrats introduced [HB 5](#) on the first day of session, but Republican leaders have so far declined to have even a hearing on the bill. We have, however, had time to pass bills naming ice cream the official State Frozen Treat and osprey the official State Raptor.

As legislative leaders delay action, many North Carolinians are in the "coverage gap." That means they do not qualify for Medicaid today but are too poor to qualify for subsidies on the Health Insurance Marketplace. If North Carolina expanded Medicaid eligibility to those in the coverage gap, it would give more than 500,000 people access to affordable health insurance. That's what 37 other states have done.

Closing the coverage gap also helps rural hospitals keep their doors open and create 13,000 jobs within 5 years in those communities. 40% of North Carolina's rural hospitals are operating in the red, and five have closed since 2014.

Covering more uninsured people lowers everyone else's premiums. Premiums for people who buy their own health insurance are 7% lower in states that have closed their coverage gap than in states that haven't. When uninsured people need care, they often go to the one place that won't turn them away: the ER. The ER is expensive, and when patients can't pay, hospitals often eat the cost and costs rise for all of us.

Governor Cooper Signs Executive Order to Increase Employment Opportunities for

People with Disabilities

Last week Governor Roy Cooper signed [Executive Order No. 92](#), Employment First for North Carolinians with Disabilities, to increase opportunities for fair wages, employment, and careers for individuals with disabilities. Through the order, the governor directs state government to become a leader in recruiting and creating an inclusive job climate for workers with disabilities.

More than 1.3 million North Carolinians have a disability, making up approximately 13 percent of the state's population. Of those, more than 720,000 are of working age, but only 35 percent are employed, compared to 76 percent of North Carolinians without disabilities.

Increasing employment for people with disabilities increases independence and results in cost savings for behavioral health services, intellectual/developmental disability services, and acute health care. It is also good for businesses and other employers, resulting in lower employee turnover, increased productivity, and access to a broader pool of skilled workers.

The [Executive Order](#) directs the North Carolina Office of State Human Resources to collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services to enhance recruitment and outreach efforts to potential workers with disabilities and to identify and attract qualified individuals with disabilities for state employment.



Insight Into the Process of Becoming Law

What Really Happens in Downtown Raleigh?

Many times, it can be challenging to fully understand and interpret the actions underway at the NC legislature. Many times, what is actually occurring and what is portrayed by the media or spread by word-of-mouth are two drastically different scenarios. Below you will find a "cheat sheet" explaining the parts of a bill, who proposes bills and how, and some of the common language that is heard around the time of a bill's potential passage.

Bill Readings: The "1st Reading" of a bill occurs as a procedural step and just means that the title of the bill is read aloud on the floor of the legislature. The "second" and "third readings" are where the legislators actually vote on the measures.

Bill Stats: Last session, around 2,000 bills were filed, yet only 360 actually became North Carolina law (around 18%). This just shows the tough vetting process that bills go through in the [NCGA](#) before becoming law.

Sponsorship: If the sponsor of a bill is a member of the majority party or the chair/co-chair of a committee related to the bill, the bill's chances of passing (or quickly failing) increase dramatically. Many legislators also file the same bills each session, in the hopes that if the bill did not pass last session, it will gain attention or traction in the current one.

Rules Committee: All bills eventually move to the House or Senate Rules committees. They are either thoroughly vetted and submitted to the floor favorably, thoroughly vetted and discarded for the current session, or shelved upon arrival to be used in later negotiation.

[Click here for more helpful GA information](#)

ARTS Day at the GA



ARTS advocates from Mecklenburg County met with me to talk about the importance of sustaining and growing public funding and arts education policy.



ARTS Day at the GA is an annual gathering of artists, advocates and arts leaders from across the state who meet with their elected representatives to deliver a message about the ARTS that is simple, inclusive, and positive.

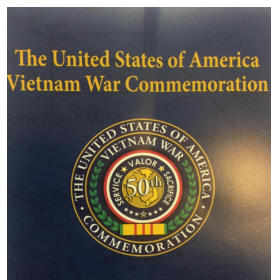
They are advocating for state investment that equals \$1 for every person in North Carolina.

Vietnam War Era Veterans' Day Event

April 1st was officially recognized as National Vietnam War Veterans Day. I attended a beautiful ceremony at the NC National Guard facility here in Raleigh. It was heartwarming to see so many men and women who served with valor.

We were honored to be recognized for our service as Vietnam Era Vets.

"Welcome Home Brothers & Sisters!"



With NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs Secretary Larry Hall





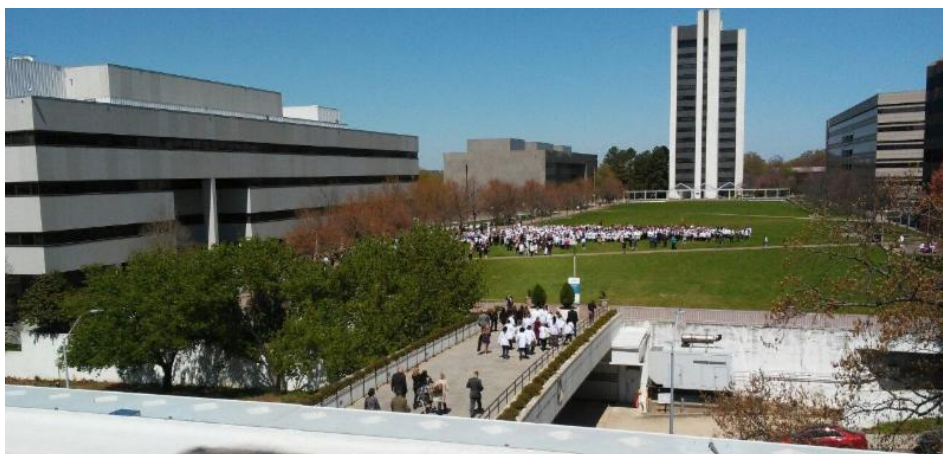
I had an opportunity to meet with a few Mecklenburg County constituents representing Friends of Residents in Long-Term Care.

We discussed the Personal Needs Allowance (PNA) for Long-Term Care Residents and why it is so important that it be increased.

With North Carolina being one of only four states that has not increased the Personal Needs Allowance, it's time for us to step up and make this increase happen for our seniors.

The PNA for nursing home residents is currently \$30 a month and has not increased in 30 years. Can you imagine having to purchase clothes, toiletries, medication copays, hearing aids and other personal items with just \$30 a month?

Nurses Day at the Legislature



More than 1100 nurses gathered on Halifax Mall* before visiting the General Assembly to discuss healthcare policies and ways that nurses can help improve healthcare for everyone. (*Halifax Mall is the area between the Legislative Building and the Legislative Office Building)

You can listen to Daily Sessions on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.gov - Once on the site, select either House or Senate, then look for the speaker.



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Have a great weekend! PEACE.

Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building, 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008, Raleigh, NC 27601

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