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The latest news for you Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, April 05, 2019 3:00 PM To: Steve Johnston

APRIL 5, 2019

Representative Nasif Majeed District 99



QUICK UPDATES:



State Health Plan Bill Passes NC House

Peace. The State Health Plan is critically important to state employees, teachers, and their families. Recently, there has been a lot of controversy over a proposed plan to cut what the State Health Plan pays providers for services.

The plan is strongly supported by State Treasurer Dale Folwell and the State Employees Association because they say it will promote health care price transparency and rein in future health care cost increases. The plan is strongly opposed by the North Carolina Hospital Association and others in the medical industry because they say the cuts are too drastic and will lead to service disruptions for those on the State Health Plan and threaten the financial health of hospitals.

HB 184 would pause the plan being put forward and create a stakeholder committee to study the issue and report back by the end of 2019. Opponents of HB 184 say we have studied this enough and we need to get serious about tackling health care costs and unfunded health liabilities. Supporters of HB 184 say we need to slow down and figure out

a better plan because the current plan will cause major health care service disruptions.

Health care is a big deal. It is literally a lifeline for many of us and rural hospitals are very important economically in many parts of the state. Both sides of the bill make good arguments and have an important perspective. I voted No on this bill because health care is in crisis and we have to get to work on lowering health care costs for state employees and their families.

Of course, our vote this week is only a first step. [HB 184](#) still needs to be considered by the State Senate and Governor Cooper. My hope is all sides continue to engage and work together to come up with a consensus that benefits state employees and their families. Earlier this session I sponsored [HB 5](#) to expand Medicaid and passing that bill would do a lot to help the State Health Plan by reining in the cost of uninsured care that we all pay for.

ICE Detainer Measure Opposed by Sheriffs Passes in House

An ICE detainer is a written request that local law enforcement detain an individual for an additional 48 hours (excluding weekends and holidays) after his or her release date. It is not a warrant and is typically not authorized by a judge.

Current federal and state law allow a sheriff discretion in misdemeanor cases whether to honor an ICE detainer. This allows the sheriff to use his or her local knowledge and experience to make the best decision on a case-by-case basis.

This week the NC House passed [HB 370](#) which takes a one-size-fits-all approach. [HB 370](#) is opposed by the NC Sheriffs Association, the NC Crime Victim Assistance Network, and civil rights organizations. I voted No, but the bill passed.

The reason I voted No is that [HB 370](#) makes our communities less safe. We need to trust our local sheriff to do his or her job to make our community safe without having his/her hands tied by state government.

Unfortunately, bills like [HB 370](#) seek to divide communities and break down trust in law enforcement. It also distracts us from issues that matter most to people's daily lives like Medicaid expansion, our public schools, and promoting policies that create jobs and bigger paychecks.

Equal Pay Day

Each year, Equal Pay Day illustrates how far into a new year on average women must work to earn men's wages from the previous year. This year, national Equal Pay Day for All Women was on April 2nd.

Women in North Carolina and across the country continue to earn less than men. While median earnings for men in North Carolina are \$45,000, women in our state earn just \$36,400, putting women's pay in North Carolina at 32nd in the nation.

Yesterday, on Equal Pay Day, Governor Roy Cooper signed [Executive Order No. 93](#) which directs state government agencies to ban the use of salary history in the hiring process. With women historically earning less on average than men, requiring job applicants to report salary history can perpetuate gender pay inequities, hurting families, employers and our economy.

The Executive Order prohibits state agencies from requesting salary history from job applicants and directs them to avoid relying on previously obtained salary history information to determine an applicant's salary. [Executive Order No. 93](#) also directs the North Carolina Office of State Human Resources to remove employment salary history fields from state employment applications as soon as possible.

Equal Pay Days for women of color are held later in the year, as women of color must work even longer to earn men's average wages from the previous year. African-American women's Equal Pay Day is on August 22, 2019, Native American women's Equal Pay Day is on September 23, 2019 and Equal Pay Day for Hispanic women on November 20, 2019.

DEQ Orders Duke Energy to Excavate Coal Ash at Six Remaining Sites

This week the N.C. Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) ordered Duke Energy

Progress to excavate all remaining coal ash sites in North Carolina. The sites impacted are in Cleveland County, Gaston County, Catawba County, Stokes County, and two in Person County. The order comes after rigorous scientific review and listening sessions in impacted communities.

DEQ determined excavation of all six sites is the only closure option that will protect public health. The coal ash must be disposed of in a lined landfill.

By August 1, 2019 Duke Energy is required to submit final closure plans. Duke Energy will have the opportunity to propose beneficiation options (such as recycling) as well as full excavation in their plans.

For the full DEQ analysis and orders to excavate issued today, as well as the comments made earlier this year on Duke Energy's proposed closure options and related documents, please visit <https://deg.nc.gov/coalashexcavation>.

NC Schools Go Outside Grants

Schools may apply for grants ranging \$250 to \$2500 to help fund field trips and outdoor experiences that offer students opportunities to explore and learn in hands-on environments.

If you know of a teacher, school, or PTA interested in the grants [here is the application form](#).



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