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Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, April 18, 2019 12:33 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)
April 18, 2019


Representative Nasif Majeed

PEACE. The quickest and simplest way to close the health care coverage gap for 500,000 North Carolinians is through Medicaid expansion. That's why I sponsored [HB 5](#) to do just that on the first day of session.

Unfortunately, no Republicans chose to co-sponsor [HB 5](#). I am pleased though that last week four of my Republican colleagues introduced their plan, [HB 655](#), to provide more North Carolinians access to affordable health insurance.

[HB 655](#) will extend health care coverage to hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, but it will NOT cover as many as would [HB 5](#). The bill has work requirements and premium co-pays that make it harder for people to use their insurance. And when these folks don't have coverage or don't use their coverage – their health suffers and we all pay for it.

We have delayed Medicaid expansion for years now. These delays have cost North Carolina countless lives and billions of dollars. The Republican leadership has refused to hold a hearing on the Medicaid expansion bill. Now that there are Republicans publicly supporting a proposal to close the coverage gap maybe we will see legislative movement to make health care better in North Carolina.

My Visit to the Leon Levine Opportunity Center





Pictured below with LaRita Barber, Chief Advancement Officer, Goodwill Industries of the Southern Piedmont



This very impressive operation was one that you have to see to believe. The Leon Levine Opportunity Center / Goodwill Opportunity Campus is a game-changer for disadvantaged job seekers. The campus features a 160,000 square foot career and services center and provides their clients with access to critical resources where they have the opportunity to receive personalized mentoring and coaching, as well as on-site training and skill development.

The campus is located on an 18-acre site at the corner of Wilkinson Boulevard and Boyer Street in Charlotte, and houses Goodwill's business enterprise operations, administrative support services and workforce services operations. There is also a health clinic, credit union, and child care facility on the campus, plus much more.

I was able to tour the massive computer training facility, the food service and catering operations, the e-commerce center, and the recycling operations center. Even though I didn't get a chance to visit, I saw a separate facility dedicated to training carpentry, brick masonry, and HVAC students.

I was highly impressed to get a small glimpse of what Goodwill has in store for job seekers preparing to enter the workforce, and it was an honor for me to be able to visit this facility. I look forward to hearing about the great things they will continue to do to help our community.



Governor Roy Cooper Proclaims April 2019 Alcohol Awareness Month

To raise awareness of the risks underage drinking poses to young people in North Carolina and across the country, Governor Roy Cooper proclaimed April 2019 as Alcohol Awareness Month.

"Underage drinking jeopardizes young people's health and safety and puts lives at risk," Gov. Cooper said. "It's important that people know the dangers of alcohol and that families talk honestly and directly about underage drinking."

According to research from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, underage drinking can cause problems in school, changes in brain development and increased risk of suicide. Underage drinking remains a serious problem in North Carolina. In a 2015 survey of middle and high school students in North Carolina, 94 percent of respondents said underage drinking is a problem among their friends and classmates.

The NC Alcoholic Beverage Control Commission launched the [Talk It Out NC](#) campaign in 2014. [Talk It Out NC](#) encourages parents and teens to stop underage drinking by pledging to maintain open lines of communication, create honest dialog about peer pressure, acknowledge the negative physical effects of alcohol on young brains and discuss the consequences of driving drunk. Visit talkitoutnc.org to get the conversation started.



Eight More North Carolina Museums Offering Reduced or Free Admission for Low-Income Families

Eight museums in North Carolina have been added to the list of attractions offering free or reduced admission to families that receive benefits from the Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) program. The project started in 2017 at the state's aquariums as a joint initiative between the North Carolina Departments of Natural and Cultural Resources and Health and Human Services.

The new participants in North Carolina are part of the Museums for All program which offers admission of \$3 or less for up to four people per Electronic Benefits Transfer, or EBT, card with a valid form of photo identification. There is no limit to how many times a family can visit a participating museum. The program encourages people of all backgrounds to visit museums regularly and build lifelong museum habits.

Besides the aquariums at Roanoke Island, Pine Knoll Shores and Fort Fisher, the new attractions participating in North Carolina are:

- The Children's Playhouse in Boone
- Blowing Rock Art & History Museum
- Discovery Place KIDS in Huntersville
- Discovery Place in Charlotte *
- Discovery Place Nature in Charlotte **
- Kaleideum North in Winston-Salem
- Kaleideum Downtown in Winston-Salem
- Discovery Place KIDS in Rockingham

Additional Info for Charlotte locations:

Discovery Place *
301 N. Tryon St.
Charlotte, NC 28202
704-372-6261

Discovery Place Nature **
1658 Sterling Road
Charlotte, NC 28209

704-372-6261



N.C. Forest Service urges residents to think safety in spring wildfire season

The N.C. Forest Service is urging North Carolina residents to think safety and exercise extra caution when burning materials during the spring fire season. The spring fire season typically runs from March through May, and is historically the time when wildfires are most likely to occur.

The N.C. Forest Service encourages anyone considering debris burning to contact his or her local county forest ranger. The forest ranger can offer technical advice and explain the best options to help maximize safety to people, property and the forest. For people who choose to burn debris, the N.C. Forest Service urges them to adhere to the following tips to protect property and prevent wildfires:

Make sure you have an approved burning permit, which can be obtained at any N.C. Forest Service office, a county-approved burning permit agent, or online at <http://ncforestservice.gov>.

- Check with your county fire marshal's office for local laws on burning debris.
- Check the weather. Don't burn if conditions are dry or windy.
- Consider alternatives to burning. Some yard debris such as leaves and grass may be more valuable if composted.
- Only burn natural vegetation from your property. Burning household trash or any other man-made materials is illegal.
- Plan burning for the late afternoon when conditions are typically less windy and more humid.
- If you must burn, be prepared. Use a shovel or hoe to clear a perimeter down to mineral soil of at least 10-feet, preferably more, around the area around where you plan to burn.
- Keep fire tools ready. To control the fire, you will need a water hose, bucket, a steel rake and a shovel for tossing dirt on the fire.
- Never use flammable liquids such as kerosene, gasoline or diesel fuel to speed debris burning.
- Stay with your fire until it is completely out. Remember, debris burning is the No. 1 cause of wildfires in the state.

These same tips hold true for campfires and barbecues as well. Douse burning charcoal briquettes or campfires thoroughly with water. When soaked; stir the coals and soak them

again. Be sure they are out cold and carefully feel to be sure they are extinguished. Never dump hot ashes or coals into a wooded area.

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Please know that I will continue to be vigilant in ensuring that a course is charted for a bright future for our succeeding generations. The vision for the future needs to be shaped during this Session through a legitimate contest of ideas, and I will be here to put your ideas forward. Please feel free to contact my Legislative Office with any suggestions, issues or concerns you might have.

The Legislature will be on Spring Break starting today, and will return on Thursday, April 25th. With our "crossover" deadline right around the corner, we will be jumping back into business with more than 100 bills to be heard in various committees. I can expect long sessions and late nights, so this is a welcome break.

Enjoy your weekend. PEACE.

GA Glossary

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