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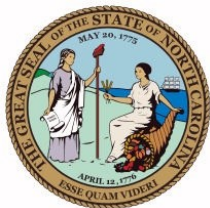

Legislative Updates from the Office of Rep. Nasif Majeed

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Thursday, May 02, 2019 3:50 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)

May 2, 2019



Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County

PEACE. After a week off for Easter break and with our "crossover" deadline right around the corner, we jumped right back into business. The House deadline for filing bills passed last week, now comes the crossover deadline.

Crossover is the date by which most bills must clear the House or the Senate to remain alive during the two-year session. This means that bill sponsors are trying to cram as many bills onto committee calendars with the hopes of getting them to a floor vote by next Thursday, May 9th.

So what is going to happen over the next week? Both House and Senate committees are going to hold meetings and try to clear as many bills as possible - anything that leadership feels needs consideration this year. If the past is any indication, some bills will pass with their sponsors promising to "fix" the bill when it gets over to the other body. Of course, that doesn't always get done. Once a bill passes over to the other body that Chamber may decide to significantly change the bill in ways the sponsor of the bill may not expect. Any number of bill sponsors have appeared at a committee meeting to find out a **proposed committee substitute** or **PCS** has been drafted and that the PCS is what is going to be heard.

The public doesn't understand how this could happen, and it is almost impossible for a legislator to explain the process when deadlines are looming. In fact it is sometimes nearly impossible for a legislator to even follow the process.

I expect to stay fully engaged in order to try to stay on top of things. I'm hoping the bills that I filed will be heard during this session, if not, I won't let them die. I will keep pushing for what is right and what is beneficial for my constituents.

Medicaid Expansion Remains Stalled, Bill to Criminalize Grass Clippings

Advances

One bill that I have continued to focus on is the Medicaid Expansion bill. On the first day of the legislative session I sponsored [HB 5](#) to expand Medicaid and close the coverage gap for 500,000 North Carolinians. The bill has yet to receive even a hearing in committee despite strong support from hospitals, doctors, nurses, and citizens who want more of their neighbors covered by health insurance.

A few weeks ago four Republican legislators introduced their alternative to Medicaid expansion, [HB 655](#) that would close the coverage gap for many, but would be a slower and less effective approach. That bill has also not even received a hearing yet.

Passing Medicaid expansion would be the single best thing legislators could do to make people's lives better in a number of ways:

- Providing more people access to affordable health care;
- Lowering health care costs by reducing uncompensated care we all pay for;
- Creating health care jobs as more people seek services, particularly in rural North Carolina;
- Making treatment more available for those suffering in the opioid crisis;
- Bringing back our tax dollars we are sending to Washington DC.

Unfortunately, we have yet to devote any committee time to these issues, but we have spent time on:

- Criminalizing grass clippings in the street ([HB 104](#))
- Allowing Lincoln County schools to have multiple recesses ([HB 72](#))
- Naming a state raptor, a state marine mammal, a state cookie, a state ship, a state frozen treat, a state azalea festival, and a state poultry festival.

Of course, some of these quirky bills are good ideas and there is nothing wrong with expressions of state and local civic pride.

But when legislative leaders devote time in 15 committee hearings and multiple floor sessions to these more light-hearted bills – and no time at all to Medicaid expansion – there is something very wrong with our General Assembly.



I was pleased to stand with Congressman GK Butterfield and other representatives, for a press conference to cap off [Medicaid Awareness Month](#), and more specifically highlight how Medicaid expansion would benefit North Carolina's rural communities.

Month of the Military Child



The month of April was designated as the national "Month of the Military Child," a time to



honor the sacrifices, courage and resilience of the dependent children of service members serving at home and overseas.

This year, the NC Department of Military and Veterans Affairs (NC DMVA), in collaboration with the NC Museum of History, NC Department of Public Instructions (DPI) Troops to Teachers Program, NC National Guard Child & Youth Program and Department of Defense Education Activity (DoDEA) Americas Mid-Atlantic District (Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune) conducted the first NC Military Child Day program in honor of the sacrifices made by military families in the state.

During this program, the students met NC DMVA Secretary Larry Hall and participated in a legislative panel with Senator Kirk DeViere, Representative Grier Martin, Representative Holly Grange, Representative Raymond Smith, and myself.

After meeting with us, the group got a chance to tour the State Capitol and meet the Cape Fear Heroes Football Team as well the Carolina Mudcats Mascot "Muddy".

In addition to hosting the event, the NC DMVA developed a contest for DoDEA elementary schools from Fort Bragg and Camp Lejeune to create a short video about "What it means to be a Military Child". The winners of the 2019 NC DMVA Month of the Military Child video contest were the following:

- Ms. Cruz's class from Heroes Elementary School, Camp Lejeune "The Military Kids Alphabet"
- Mrs. Crank's class from Tarawa Terrace Elementary School, Camp Lejeune, "Jody for the Military Child"
- Ms. Grate's class from Bowley Elementary School, Fort Bragg "What it Means to Me"
- Ms. Parker's class from Bowley Elementary School, Fort Bragg "Unboxing a Military Child Toy"

Winners of the video contest, along with their teachers and community partners, were recognized at the event with a framed copy of the Governor's proclamation designating April as the Month of the Military Child in North Carolina. Marine Corps Installations East Deputy Commander, Colonel Scott Baldwin, and Fort Bragg Garrison Command, Sergeant Major William Lohmeyer, also participated in the event.

PRAY
FOR
PEACE

Finally, I am deeply saddened by the tragic shooting that occurred on our beloved UNCC campus. My condolences go out to the entire UNCC community, in particular to the families of the two students that lost their lives. Also, my prayers are with the four students that were injured and I wish them a speedy recovery.

Please be assured that as part of your Mecklenburg County Delegation in the North Carolina House of Representatives, I am taking this matter seriously. I am doing what I can to fight for gun control as it is vital we tighten these laws to ensure that incidents like

this don't occur again.

Since taking office in January, I have sponsored and co-sponsored many bills that would help get a handle on gun control. I have also sponsored a hate crimes bill which would place harsher penalties on people that commit these type of crimes.

Please know that I stand with the UNCC community and will continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers.

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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