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July Newsletter
 Senator Joyce Waddell [waddelljla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Saturday, August 03, 2019 1:00 PM
To: [Steve Johnston](#)

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*Serving District 40 and
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2019-2020 Committees

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- Joint Legislative Commission on Energy Policy
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The Waddell Bulletin



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Dear Friends:

If you search the internet for news on the North Carolina Senate, you will probably see the state budget dominating headlines. The majority party has still not come to an agreement with Governor Cooper about where the state's money should go.

The Governor's first priority is to expand access to medicaid, which the Senate budget did not do. This is a deeply necessary step. Medicaid expansion would allow around 500,000 *working* North Carolinians access to health insurance they need, but currently cannot afford. It is a key step in fighting opioid addiction and supporting ailing mothers and children. Furthermore, medicaid expansion would be primarily funded by taxes North Carolinians already pay to the Federal Government, so it would not cost you or I anything extra.

It may be some time before the Governor and the majority party come to an agreement on the budget, but in the meantime, a variety of other bills continue to come to the Senate floor. **Senate Bill 438: Excellent Public Schools Act of 2019**, which deals with the North Carolina Read to Achieve program, is one such bill. It returned to the Senate last week with an amendment from the House that would allow school districts discretion over what program they use to teach and test reading skills with young students. I agreed with this amendment, and voted to concur, but the majority party did not, and the bill was voted down 19-23. It will now return to the House, and may feature in further negotiations toward a compromise.

As always, please reach out to my office, or those of your other representatives, with your requests and concerns. Feedback always helps us to better serve you.

-Senator Joyce Waddell

Session News

Some bills that passed the Senate this month included:

- [House Bill 683: Combat Absentee Ballot Fraud](#) increases protections against absentee voter fraud, and restore the last Saturday of early voting.
- [House Bill 362: 15-Point Scale for School Performance Grades](#) makes permanent the 15-point grading scale for schools that North Carolina has been using since 2015, in which schools that score above 85% receive an “A,” above 70% receive a “B,” etc. Our educators believe this has created more meaningful categories than the previous 10-point scale, but the scale was set to revert to 10-points this year before this bill went through.
- [House Bill 329: Renewable Energy Amends](#) started out as a controversial bill that would have imposed costly new regulations on the disposal of solar panels; now, however, it simply requires the Environmental Management Commission and Department of Environmental Quality to study the issue and create disposal and recycling regulations by 2022.
- [Senate Bill 579: Prison Reform Act of 2019](#) tasks the Program Evaluation Division with studying alternative organization and management possibilities for the Division of Adult Correction and Juvenile Justice.
- [Senate Bill 681: Rural Health Care Stabilization Act](#) establishes a fund to provide low interest loans to rural hospitals in financial crisis. Senator Waddell supported this bill, as it makes progress on a pressing issue, but she, along with many other members, worried it is too small a fix for the dire situation many hospitals are in.
- [Senate Bill 290: ABC Regulatory Reform Bill](#), which returned to the Senate for concurrence this month, expands the liberties of North Carolina distilleries, allowing them to serve and sell their products on-site (as breweries currently do), to host tastings at ABC stores. The bill also will allow bar customers to order two drinks at a time, and allow farmers markets to hold beer tastings.
- [House Bill 645: Revisions to Outdoor Advertising Laws](#) came before the Senate for a third reading on Tuesday. This bill’s main goal is to allow billboards taken down by the government to be relocated so as not to deprive the owner of their advertising ability, or necessitate payments compensating them. Some Senators had concerns that, as written, the bill will deprive local governments of control over where billboards get relocated, and does not deal adequately with billboard digitalization. The bill passed 27-17.
- [House Bill 126: Amend Certificate of Need Laws](#) would scale back North Carolina regulations requiring hospitals to gain approval from the government to purchase costly new technology or make renovations. Proponents of the bill argued that certificate of need laws fail to reduce costs, and may even increase them by giving large hospitals advantages over small ones who suffer more from the regulation. Others argued that certificate of need regulation has reduced health care costs in North Carolina, and that the bill may hurt specific areas of medical practice. After removing parts that could affect dialysis centers, the Senate voted 24-18 to pass the bill.
- [House Bill 391: Passenger Protection Act](#) will take steps to prevent

impersonation of ride-share drivers, due to an incident in which a young woman was killed after getting in the car she thought was her Uber. The legislation will make ride-share drivers show license plate numbers and a company logo on the front of their vehicles. It also creates a Class 2 misdemeanor for impersonating a ride-share driver, and a Class H Felony for impersonating a ride-share driver with malicious intent.

- [House Bill 724: Truth in Caller ID Act](#) hopes to cut down on harassment over the telephone. It will regulate telephone solicitations made through text communications and will prohibit a telephone solicitor from misrepresenting the origin of the call by causing misleading information to be transmitted to users of caller identification technologies.

You can read all bills, listen to session and committee meetings, and follow the work of the North Carolina General Assembly at www.ncleg.gov

Intern with Senator Waddell



Are you a college or graduate student hoping to learn about the North Carolina Senate?

Would you like to gain experience working with legislation and lawmakers?

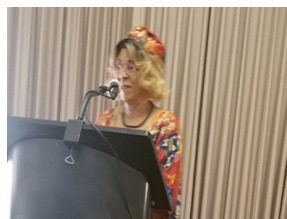
Interns in Senator Waddell's office help research bills, write talking points, draft communications (like this one!), and more!

To apply, send a resume and cover letter to waddelljla@ncleg.net

Serving You



Celebrating July 4th with the Hickory Grove Parade





Senator Waddell spoke for African-American Women Professionals' Service Organization Las Amigas, during their Harambe Breakfast.



Senator Waddell welcomed Justin Giles, a South Mecklenburg High School alum and student at Clemson University, as a summer intern in her office.



Senator Waddell met with the International Minority Coalition in Charlotte to discuss how minority groups can benefit from working together.





Senator Waddell met with Chief Justice Sherry Beasley on the School Justice Partnership.

***I cannot achieve anything without my constituents.
Please reach out with any questions, or feedback you'd like to
share. Thank you for your support!
-Senator Joyce Waddell***

Senator Joyce Waddell | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

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