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The latest news for you
Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]
Sent: Thursday, August 08, 2019 2:32 PM
To: [Steve Johnston](#)

August 8, 2019

Representative Nasif Majeed
District 99 - Mecklenburg County



Updates from Raleigh

Peace. Governor Roy Cooper vetoed the State Budget on June 28th and presented a compromise budget proposal on July 7th. Yet there has been no response from the House or Senate’s leadership. There has been no counter offer, not even an attempt to override Governor Cooper’s veto—nothing but delay!

A veto-override vote remains on the House calendar, however legislative leaders have refused to hold a veto override vote because they do not have the votes to win. Overriding a veto requires a 3/5 majority rather than a simple majority.

Currently, continuation measures from the previous budget and a recent [stopgap bill](#) to keep federal funding going are in effect in the meantime.

THE IMPASSE: MEDICAID EXPANSION

The governor has made it clear that he wants [Medicaid Expansion](#) in the budget, however legislative leaders will not even entertain discussing it, thus we’re at an [impasse](#).

Governor Cooper continues to say that everything needs to be on the negotiating table, even Medicaid expansion. When asked whether he could envision accepting a compromise without including Medicaid expansion, he stated, "You're asking me to try to forecast the end of budget negotiations that haven't even started."

The governor has been saying all along that **he is willing to negotiate a true compromise**. Right after he vetoed the budget in June, he made the following statement. "I stand ready to negotiate a true compromise. And to do that, everything – Republican priorities and Democratic ones – must be on the table. No one will get everything they want, but I know that if we come together and negotiate in good faith, we can do better."

Last week I detailed the success that Virginia has seen since they expanded Medicaid. With a Democratic Governor, a Republican State Senate and a Republican State House, legislators came together and did what was right for Virginia.

Thanks to this common sense compromise to include Medicaid expansion in their state budget, 300,000 Virginians have healthcare who were uninsured just a few months ago. 300,000 Virginians can see a doctor, get treatment, and lead happy, healthy, productive lives.

Here in North Carolina we could do the exact same thing. **We could extend healthcare coverage, which in our state would insure over 500,000 citizens in just a few short months**, starting November 1st. All we need to do is expand Medicaid.

We just can't leave 500,000 North Carolinians behind. Sitting idly by while thousands of our neighbors die from lack of coverage is **NOT** an option. As legislators we are here to serve our citizens and do what's in their best interests.

Expanding Medicaid would bring \$5 billion of our tax dollars back to North Carolina as a part of this two-year budget. This would create **40,000 good healthcare jobs** statewide and it would save more than **1,000 lives per year across our state**.

The facts are in, and we know from experience across the country that this is not a Democrat versus Republican issue. **This is a question of Right versus Wrong**.

It's time to do what's Right for North Carolina.

I continue to stand with Governor Cooper in this fight to serve our citizens with this much needed expansion.

WHAT IS MEDICAID AND WHO PAYS FOR IT

Medicaid is a federal health insurance program administered by the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services for people who could not afford insurance on their own.

A common misconception about Medicaid is that it provides bad health care, said Donald H. Taylor, Jr., a professor of health policy at Duke University. **It is just a health insurance program like any other — patients with Medicaid simply go to doctor's offices that accept Medicaid as an insurance plan for treatment**, he said. The state's Division of Health Benefits lists more than 3,000 primary care providers in North Carolina that accept Medicaid.

As it stands now, the federal government covers about two-thirds of the \$14.8 billion program covering 2.1 million people in North Carolina.

Most people who currently qualify for Medicaid are people with disabilities, pregnant women or low-income families with children. Medicaid expansion would mostly benefit low-income adults without children.

Medicaid is different from Medicare, which is mostly aimed toward people over the age of 65, people with disabilities and those with end-stage renal disease.

According to Governor Cooper's 2019-2020 budget proposal, **Medicaid expansion would cost \$2.13 billion, with \$1.91 billion covered by federal funds.**

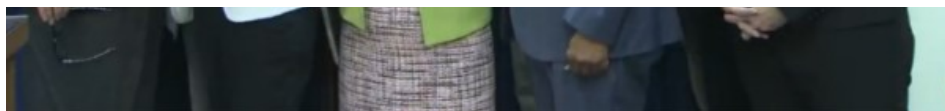
Ninety percent of expansion would be covered by the federal government, and the remaining 10 percent would be covered by hospitals and health care plans.

The share covered by the federal government is supposed to be covered by federal taxes which North Carolinians pay anyway.



Gun control supporters advocate for legislation





In the wake of mass shootings in Texas and Ohio over the weekend, Governor Cooper asked legislative leaders to stop bottling up bills that could head off a similar shooting in North Carolina.

"The time for condolences alone has long passed, and now it is time for action," the governor said in a statement. "The General Assembly should move quickly to debate the details of these bills so that we can end up with legislation to keep deadly weapons out of the wrong hands. I am also directing my administration to ensure we are doing what's needed to try to prevent these tragic events."

House Bill 86, dubbed the Gun Violence Protection Act, was filed in February and includes provisions that would require a permit for all guns purchased in the state, not just pistols, and set a three-day waiting period for purchases. It also would set a minimum age of 21 to buy an assault rifle, ban high-capacity magazines and require owners of guns that are lost or stolen to report the loss or theft to police.

House Bill 454 was filed in March and would create a so-called "red flag law" in North Carolina, which would allow a judge to temporarily take away someone's guns if they're found to be an imminent danger to themselves or others. The person would also be banned from buying or borrowing other guns as long as the order is in effect.

With little expectation that Republican leadership would move these bills out of committee, House Democrats lined up Monday night to sign a discharge petition to get them moving anyway. That effort was largely symbolic, since it takes a majority of members to force legislation to the floor, and no House Republicans joined the minority party.

In addition, Democrats, along with the advocate groups, **Moms Demand Action** and **Students Demand Action**, held a press conference on Tuesday to announce the need to move both bills out of committee and to the floor for votes.

Also in attendance was Drew Pescaro, the UNC-Charlotte student shot on April 30th. Drew gave an impassioned speech on his experience with the shooter as well as how he feels that the passing of both these bills could have prevented that UNCC shooting. Drew said he doesn't want to be looked at as a victim, instead he wants action. He said both Republicans and Democrats need to vote on these bills, even if they get voted down they need to be voted on in order to work toward bills that benefit all of us.



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Have a great weekend, PEACE!

Nasif

View inside House Chambers



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