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### For Immediate Release

Sen. Joyce Waddell [joyce.waddell@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, August 09, 2019 7:45 PM

To: [Steve Johnston](#)



From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County

#### FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Friday, August 09, 2019

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#### Association Health Plans

**Charlotte, NC-** The Senate is done with work for the week and will hold votes again on Tuesday, Aug. 13, 2019.

Some of the bills that were passed this week in the Senate were:

[SB 321](#): Federal Motor Carrier Safety/PRISM.

[SB 584](#): Criminal Law Reform.

[SJR 687](#): SBOE Confirmation/Jt. Session.

[HB 597](#): Wildlife Resources Commission Amends.

[HB 604](#): Small Business Retirement Program.

[HB 206](#): Various Transportation Changes.

[HB 217](#): DIT Changes.-AB

[SB 438](#): Excellent Public Schools Act of 2019.

[HB 597](#): Wildlife Resources Commission Amends.

Senate Bill 86, now in the House, passed the Senate 38-8 on March 14, 2019. The bill would allow small businesses, real estate agents and others with statewide trade groups could band together to set up health insurance plans without all the federal mandates that came with the Affordable Care Act under legislation that passed the House Wednesday with bipartisan support.

The bill would have the same plan requirements as plans for major corporations; letting them pool their membership and offer insurance plans regulated by the state Department of Insurance. Those plans would have to cover pre-existing conditions, but they wouldn't always come with the coverage generally required now by the Affordable Care Act, such as maternity care.

To start plans under this law, associations would have to be statewide and have existed for at least three years. Their plans would have to cover at least 500 people. Both employees and owners could get insurance.

"It is important that all workers have access to adequate health care." Said Senator Joyce Waddell.

###


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