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**The latest news for you**  
Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]  
**Sent:** Thursday, August 15, 2019 12:26 PM  
**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

August 15, 2019

Representative Nasif Majeed  
District 99 - Mecklenburg County



LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

As Impasse Continues, House Speaker To  
Keep Working On Override

Peace. Seven weeks into a budget stalemate, House Speaker Tim Moore said he won't stop trying to cobble together enough votes to override Governor Roy Cooper's veto, even as the governor's fellow Democrats insist the votes to uphold it are solid.

Speaker Moore told reporters that he'll keep working to persuade Democrats to approve the legislature's two-year spending plan over the governor's objections.

A budget was supposed to be enacted by the time the current fiscal year began July 1, but Governor Cooper vetoed it a few days earlier, citing the presence of corporate tax cuts and weak teacher pay raises, as well as the absence of Medicaid expansion.

Unlike the previous six years, Republican majorities in the House and Senate are no longer veto-proof — meaning they need Democratic help to override bills the governor

blocks.

The largest challenge for Republicans is in the House, where they must sway seven Democrats if all 120 members vote and if GOP legislators stay united. The House has kept open the option of an override vote during every daily session since early July, but GOP leaders have never taken the formal vote, instead they have extended the session well past the proposed July adjournment.

Last Wednesday, a letter signed by 51 House Democrats was sent to Speaker Moore and Senate leader Phil Berger saying that Republicans must face facts and begin negotiating with Governor Cooper to resolve the standoff.

***"The votes are not there to override and staying in session for weeks waiting for Democrats to miss votes because of illness or family and work obligations is a waste of taxpayer dollars and disrespectful to the voters who elected Gov. Cooper and this more balanced General Assembly."***

Speaker Moore and other Republicans have been promoting local initiatives in the two-year spending plan, by traveling to districts where Democrat lawmakers haven't fully committed to upholding the veto.

"We're going to continue ... to try to convince Democrats that this is a great budget that they should vote for," Moore said. He said the fact that four Democrats didn't put their name to the letter is a sign "there actually is some bipartisan support for the override."

Governor Cooper also has been out and about holding made-for-media discussions to press his case for expanding Medicaid. He visited a child care center in Shelby where he said expansion will help improve health care for mothers who are child care workers, which in turn will benefit the workers' own children.

### **North Carolina Ranked One of the Worst States for Health Care**

[WalletHub.com](http://WalletHub.com) released a ranking of the 50 states plus Washington DC on where Americans receive the best and worst health care across 43 measures of cost, accessibility, and outcomes. North Carolina ranked #50, ahead of only Alaska.

Why did North Carolina fare so poorly? We were 50<sup>th</sup> in the cost of health care and 50<sup>th</sup> in the accessibility of health care. On health outcomes we ranked 33<sup>rd</sup>.

Obviously, a ranking so low is unacceptable and embarrassing for us as a state even if it is just one ranking from one website. Being recognized as one of the worst states for health care hinders our efforts to grow as a state.

Most importantly, our low ranking just confirms what we already know. Health care is too expensive and too many people do not have access to affordable care. This is a problem nationally, but it is a bigger problem in North Carolina than most of the country.

What can we do about it? Here are three ideas.

1. Catch up with the rest of the country and expand Medicaid. Bring our federal tax dollars back to North Carolina to close the health care coverage gap and reduce uncompensated care that we all end up paying for.
2. Pass legislation to guarantee that pre-existing conditions will be covered in any insurance coverage offered in North Carolina.
3. Use all of the policy options available to fight obesity – a chronic condition that hits North Carolina particularly hard both in our citizens' health and in our health care costs.

### **Amendment to Require Coverage of Pre-Existing Conditions for all NC Health Plans Ruled Out of Order**

As the North Carolina House debated the Association Health Plans bill, one of my colleagues offered an amendment to require all North Carolina health plans to cover pre-existing conditions. The House Speaker ruled the amendment out of order preventing it from being debated or considered.

Ideally, the North Carolina House would consider and debate a bill to require pre-existing condition coverage. We need a health system that cares for everyone. This is particularly true for citizens already struggling with life-altering conditions or diseases like diabetes, cancer, or heart disease.

The national Affordable Care Act ("ACA" or "Obamacare") provides pre-existing condition to many Americans, but not all. Unfortunately, even these protections are under continuing legal attack. A 2018 federal court ruled the ACA was unconstitutional and that ruling is currently being appealed.

The uncertainty around the national health care debate makes it more important than ever that we pass North Carolina protections for pre-existing conditions.

### Gun Safety Bills Remain Stalled; Discharge Petitions Filed

House legislators have filed numerous gun safety bills this session, but none have been heard in a committee. Each day we are in session costs about \$40,000 to \$50,000. Last week, we considered a bill to allow cartways to extend 30 feet instead of 18 feet. Not exactly what citizens want us to be working on.

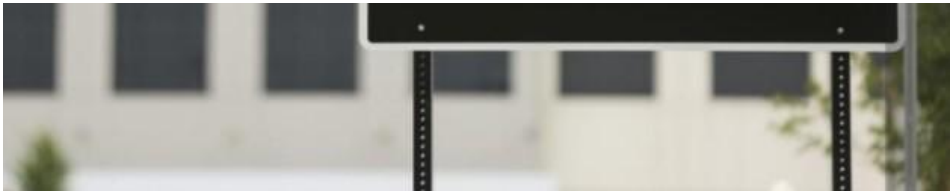
What can be done on gun safety if the House leadership refuses to hear gun safety bills? **The House rules allow a bill sponsor to file a discharge petition. If more than 60 legislators (there are 120 of us) sign the discharge petition, then the bill is removed from the committee that refuses to hear it and placed directly on the House floor for consideration by all 120 members.**

I signed the discharge petition for [HB 454](#), a bill to allow for extreme risk protective orders. Extreme risk protective orders create a process where a judge can temporarily remove a gun from someone who shows suicidal or threatening behavior. It is an approach used in other states, including Republican states. The bill contains due process protections that protect the rights of the individual, but still provide a way to get guns out of the hands of those who are a danger to themselves and others.

I also signed the discharge petition for [HB 86](#), a bill that contains a number of common sense policy proposals that respect the tradition of responsible gun ownership while promoting gun safety and keeping dangerous weapons out of the wrong hands. Specifically, [HB 86](#) does the following:

- Universal background checks for all gun sales.
- Ban bump stocks.
- Raise the age for purchasing and possession of an assault weapon from 18 to 21.
- Limiting the size of ammunition magazines.
- Promote responsible safe storage.
- Require a permit for the purchase of an assault weapon.
- Allow law enforcement to destroy seized weapons.





*Left to right: Rep. Carolyn Logan, Rep. Nasif Majeed, Rep. Mary Belk, Senator Natasha Marcus, Rep. Christy Clark*



I had the pleasure of joining other legislators, from the Mecklenburg delegation, to tour the new 855,000-square-foot robotics fulfillment center still under construction at interstates 485 and 85.

Amazon CLT4 is a \$200 million, multi-story facility that features 10 miles of conveyance and robotics that are programmed to drive units in the center, lifting up to 1,500 pounds at a time. The facility includes picking, packing and shipping operations for smaller items like home goods, electronics, toys and books. Other Amazon warehouses, including a fulfillment center in Kannapolis, handle "non-sortable" items that are larger, such as canoes or furniture.

Jeremy Stewart, Amazon CLT4's general manager, said that their leadership team is preparing to hire 1,500 employees and the facility will be in full operation in time for the 2019 holiday season.

**HBCU STUDENTS:**  
**APPLY HERE FOR ACCESS TO FREE TEXTBOOKS** by Selena Hill







Textbooks are just one of the many expenses that fall on college students and their families in addition to tuition and, oftentimes, dormitories, meal plans, and more. According to a [recent study](#), textbook costs are the second-largest stressor facing college students after paying for tuition. The study also found that 60% of African American students noted did not buy required textbooks and course materials because of the high costs.

**To help ease the financial burden of higher education—an epidemic that disproportionately affects students of colors—the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) and Cengage have partnered to provide 1,000 students from Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) with access to textbooks.** Through this new initiative, Cengage, an education and technology company, is giving select students free semester-long subscriptions to its first-of-its-kind digital subscription service for college textbooks and course materials.

Cengage Unlimited subscriptions, which is essentially like the “Netflix-for-textbooks,” **offers access to more than 22,000 eBooks, online homework access codes, study guides, and tools like Chegg, Kaplan, and Quizlet.** It normally costs \$119.99 a semester. However, eligible students will gain access to the subscription at no charge. To apply for the program, HBCU students must be of African descent, obtain a 2.5 GPA or better, demonstrated a financial need, and submit an essay and letter of recommendation.

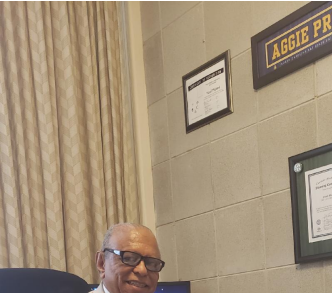
*“Every student should have an equal opportunity to succeed, and having the right learning materials can have a critical impact on performance,” said Michael Hansen, the CEO of Cengage, in a [statement](#). “The high cost of textbooks have prohibited this for many students. This is why we launched Cengage Unlimited – to make quality learning more affordable.*

**UNCF, the largest educational organization supporting and advocating for minorities, will administer the program** and select the recipients on behalf of Cengage. Ultimately, the UNCF-Cengage partnership aims to combat the disparities in education and help improve college affordability by an overhaul of outdated models.

“For 75 years, our motto ‘A mind is a terrible thing to waste, but a wonderful thing to invest in,’ has remained at the forefront of everything we do,” said Dr. Michael L. Lomax, the president and CEO of UNCF. “We must continue to invest our time and money in better futures for young people around the country. Partners like Cengage are vitally important to this work and we are pleased to have them as an ally in helping to educate the next generation of leaders.”

**Applications are being accepted through August 29 for the fall semester. Applications for the Spring 2020 semester will open on November 4, 2019. Students can learn more and [apply here](#).**

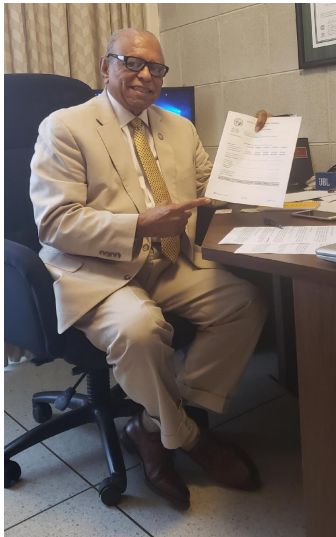
**HOUSE BILL 312: HATE CRIMES PREVENTION ACT**



Finally, I sponsored [HB 312 \[Hate Crimes Prevention Act\]](#) in January but have been unsuccessful getting it to the House floor for discussion. I feel as state leaders it is our responsibility to do whatever is possible to discourage someone from committing a hate crime.

**Last week I filed a discharge petition in order to move my bill out of the Judiciary committee where it currently sits.**

Right now hate crimes in North Carolina are



punishable simply as misdemeanors. That's why many folks think they can commit this type of crime and get a slap on the wrist. **I think that needs to change and change now!** House Bill 312 would increase penalties on hate crimes to a felony.

I'd like to sit down with my fellow colleagues, both Republicans and Democrats just to have a heartfelt discussion on this important issue. An issue that can help both victims and offenders. Because it's possible that the offender won't offend if he/she realizes the repercussion will be severe.

Sometimes just talking about a subject and hearing other points of view is all it takes.

It's not a Democrat or Republican issue but it is most definitely a human issue that we must address. Call the NC House Republican Legislators & implore them to "DO SOMETHING!!!"

#HateHasNoPlaceInOurLives #DoSomething



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Have a great weekend, PEACE!



View inside House Chambers





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