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Legislative Updates

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Monday, November 11, 2019 6:20 PM

To: Steve Johnston

November 11, 2019

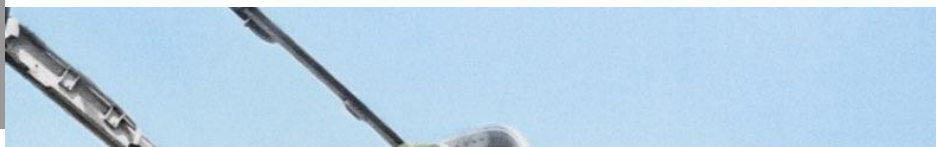
Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



SALUTE TO ALL THOSE THAT SERVED!

PEACE. Today, we stand proud to salute and honor all of the Military Veterans who served our country. We thank them for their sacrifices in defense of our sacred freedoms.

I'm proud to have served as an Air Force Captain, combat pilot and Aircraft Commander of a B-52 Strategic Bomber. I flew over 120 combat missions over North Vietnam and on this day I proudly say to all my Veteran Brothers and Sisters, **"WELCOME HOME!!!!"**





LEGISLATIVE UPDATES

After temporarily adjourning without the Senate taking up the Budget Veto override or the Legislature sitting down with Governor Cooper and negotiating a Comprehensive, Fair and Balanced Budget that works for all North Carolinians. Instead, we have muddled along for months on a bipartisan basis, doing our best to keep our state government afloat with "mini-budgets."

First the Governor joined Democrat and Republican Legislators to pass Budget Bill [HB111](#), which funds our state government functions at the same level they were funded in the previous year, excluding things that were paid for with one-time funds.

Next, we have passed some critical public safety funding and disaster relief that we all agreed upon.

We also accepted the State Employee raises of 5% for 27% of State Employees that the Republican Conference Budget was in agreement with Governor Cooper's Budget on. However, we're clearly not finished yet.

Additionally, some other important bipartisan mini-budgets successes were:

We expanded the personal tax exemption, which is a solid working family tax cut.

We finally funded the clearing out of the backlog of untested sexual assault evidence and rape kits with [HB29](#).

We also strengthened our laws on sexual assault and child abuse with [SB199](#). Along with this, the bill added sexual assault training and human trafficking training to our NC School Curriculum.

What we have not done, and I stand with the Governor and his veto until we do are:

- Invest in adequate teacher and public educator pay raises instead of more corporate tax cuts.
- Pass a true voter approved School and Infrastructure Bond instead of a pork-barrel slush fund.
- Expand Medicaid, closing the healthcare coverage gap for a half million North Carolinians instead of wasting \$4 billion of our tax dollars each year.
- Provide the remaining 73% of State Employees with a 5% raise and our retirees with a 2% COLA.

Governor Cooper is willing and ready to negotiate a Comprehensive Budget that is balanced, fair and serves everyone in our state. We can do better!

Teachers Stand with Governor Cooper on Veto and Call on Legislature to Negotiate Teacher Pay

Last week Governor Cooper vetoed bills that cut corporate taxes and provided teachers and public school employees with raises smaller than all other state employees. Teachers joined Governor Cooper in calling for legislators to negotiate higher pay raises.

Just two weeks ago, Governor Cooper and legislative Democrats requested separate negotiations solely on teacher pay, in light of recent piecemeal mini-budgets legislative leaders have pushed. So far legislative leaders have not agreed to negotiate.

On July 9th, Governor Cooper and legislative Democrats proposed a Compromise Budget in hopes of jump-starting negotiations. The compromise offer can be found [HERE](#). It would close the health care coverage gap, raise teacher pay, cut taxes for people and guarantee school construction while balancing the budget and saving money in the Rainy Day Fund. So far legislative leaders have not responded with their own compromise offer.

Deadline is December 15 for Enrolling in Health Insurance Marketplace

North Carolinians who do not have health insurance have until December 15 to enroll for 2020 coverage through the federal Health Insurance Marketplace at [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov). Those with coverage through the Marketplace in 2019 should use [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov) to take action and keep their coverage for 2020.

The federal Marketplace is a way for people to find health coverage that meets their needs and fits their budget. At [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), North Carolinians can compare plans based on price, benefits and other features. Importantly, coverage cannot be denied because of pre-existing or chronic conditions like cancer or diabetes.

Health care through the federal Marketplace lets North Carolinians go to a doctor for regular check-ups and sick visits. Every health plan in the federal Marketplace offers essential health benefits, including doctor visits, preventive care, hospitalization,

prescriptions and more.

Those applying for health insurance through the Marketplace will know their costs before enrolling. Most people who sign up for coverage get help paying for their premiums and may also be able to get help with copayments and deductibles.

Enrollment for the federal Marketplace ends Sunday, December 15. Those who had coverage for 2019 through [HealthCare.gov](https://www.healthcare.gov), should log in to their Marketplace account as soon as possible to review their options for 2020.

Factsheets on the Marketplace are available in English and Spanish. North Carolinians seeking free, in-person assistance with enrollment can also visit the NC Navigator Consortium to find a local application assister or call the toll-free NC Navigator Helpline at 1-855-733-3711.

State Health Plan Open Enrollment Now Until November 19

State Health Plan Open Enrollment is going on now until November 19th. Participants may choose between the 70/30 Plan and the 80/20 Plan, but the default is the 70/30 Plan.

- All active and non-Medicare retirees will be moved to the 70/30 Plan for the 2020 benefit year.
- Members will need to take action during Open Enrollment if they want to enroll in the 80/20 Plan or reduce their monthly premium.
- The 70/30 Plan remains premium-free for eligible non-Medicare retirees.
- Preventive services will be covered at 100% for both the 80/20 and 70/30 plans (copays have been eliminated)!
- If you do not use tobacco, do not forget to complete the attestation which will lower your premium.
- Tobacco users who want to reduce their subscriber-only premium by \$60 will need to visit a CVS MinuteClinic for at least one face-to-face tobacco cessation counseling session by December 31, 2019.



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PEACE,



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