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**Additional COVID-19 Relief Bill Passes**  
Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

**Sent:** Friday, September 04, 2020 1:27 PM  
**To:** [Steve Johnston](#)

## September 4, 2020

### Representative Nasif Majeed

### District 99 - Mecklenburg County



## Additional COVID-19 Relief Bill Passes

Peace. The General Assembly approved its final round of COVID-19 relief of the year this week ([HB 1105](#)), unless additional funding is appropriated by the federal government. I will summarize what is good in the bill, what is bad in the bill, and what should have been included but was left out.

**The Good**

- \$50 increase in weekly unemployment insurance compensation (more on this in the “What’s Missing” section)
- \$335 tax credit for families with children
- \$52 million in funding for public schools (more on this in the “What’s Missing” section)
- \$30 million in additional grants to expand high-speed Internet access
- \$20 million in funding to stabilize operations at North Carolina museums, zoos, and other cultural attractions
- \$6 million in direct assistance to food banks and nutritional programs
- \$14 million for personal protective equipment (PPE)
- \$13 million in assistance to farmers
- \$13 million in funding for the UNC System
- \$5 million in funding for community colleges
- \$41 million for early childhood services
- \$38 million for mental health services
- \$59 million to expand COVID-19 testing and contact tracing
- \$23 million for aging adult services
- \$3.5 million for small business grants (More on this in the “What’s Missing” section)

**The Bad**

- In a bill that is supposed to deal with the many challenges posed by COVID-19, we fund and expand private school vouchers.

- Pork projects. Millions of dollars are diverted away from COVID-19 relief to legislative leaders and their key allies.
- HB 1105 was drafted in backrooms by a few GOP leaders with no input from the public, Democratic legislators, or Governor Cooper. GOP leadership prevented lawmakers from offering any amendments to the bill. That's not how representative democracy should work.

### What's Missing

- Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid Expansion means billions of dollars come to NC from the federal government. We use that money to expand health care access and create health care jobs and infrastructure. That sounds like a pretty good idea anytime, but particularly during a global pandemic and recession. It's now a decade and counting of failing to expand Medicaid, costing us lost jobs, lost lives, and lost investment.
- Pay increases or bonuses for teachers and public school employees. HB 1105 does \$0 for public employees. Governor Cooper's proposal included \$2000 for teachers and principals, \$1000 for other public school employees, and \$1500 for community college and university employees.
- Significant investment in public schools needed to satisfy our state constitutional guarantee of a sound public education to all students as required by recent court orders.
- Assistance to small businesses most impacted by COVID-19, such as restaurants, bars, gyms, etc.
- Fixing the long-term problem that NC's unemployment system is the worst in the country for unemployed workers.
- Significant assistance to local governments.

I ultimately voted Yes on HB 1105 because we have a strict deadline to finish spending the federal money we received for COVID-19 and there is much in the bill that is good and badly-needed right now. However, the items we failed to do are critically important and remain the top of my "Must Do" list for when we return to Raleigh in 2021.

## If you leave home, know your Ws!



## Center for Disease Control

**[CDC's Ways to Prevent Getting Sick](#)** There are measures that we all can take in order to protect ourselves and others from getting sick.

**[CDC's What to Do if You Are Sick](#)** Learn what to do next if you think you are sick. Click Here to see on what to do and what not to do if this happens to you.

**[CDC's Guidance for Older Adults and COVID-19](#)** Trends have shown older adults and people with pre-existing medical condition are more prone to develop serious complications from the COVID-19 illness.

**[CDC's 10 ways to manage your symptoms at home](#)** Vital instructions on what to do if you have confirmed or possible COVID19.

**[CDC's Running Essential Errands](#)** The following information provides advice about how to meet new challenges and contains answers about meeting basic household needs in a safe and healthy way.

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The full DHHS Data Dashboard with all of our metrics is available here:

**<https://covid19.ncdhhs.gov/dashboard>**



The Census Bureau is working to complete data collection as quickly and safely as possible, while ensuring a complete and accurate count as it strives to comply with the law and statutory deadlines. All offices are scheduled to complete their work by September 30, 2020.

That still gives you time to complete the survey, if you have not already done so. Completing the survey is quick and easy to do. You can complete your Census questionnaire online, by phone or on paper. By using your phone, tablet or computer, or simply grabbing a pencil or pen, you can complete the questionnaire, spending less than 10 minutes on what can impact your community in the next 10 years.

The process is safe, easy and important and you can respond in one of three ways:

- Online by visiting **[my2020census.gov](https://my2020census.gov)**.
- By phone by calling **1-800-923-8282**. For information on language support, click **[here](#)** for a listing of telephone numbers.
- Via **[mail](#)**

Help Make NC Count! View and download resource materials by clicking on

the button below.

NC Census Outreach & Engagement Toolkit

Be safe. PEACE!



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Representative Nasif Majeed, District 99 | Legislative Building, 16 W. Jones Street, Room 1008, Raleigh, NC 27601

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