

*****SPAM*** For Immediate Release**

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Date 2022-06-08 11:09



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Wednesday, June 8, 2022
Volume 24

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**Greetings:**

Last week at the General Assembly many bills were discussed. Three bills caught the attention of many in North Carolina - SB 711 Compassionate Care Act, HB 755 Parents' Bill of Rights, and HB 149 Expanding Access to Healthcare.

Joyce Waddell

Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid expansion may actually happen in North Carolina. By doing so hundreds of thousands of low-income adults will become insured. A legislative majority leader was a longtime opponent of accepting federal funds through the 2010 Affordable Care Act to cover people that make too much money to qualify for traditional Medicaid, but too little to qualify for subsidized private plans. Opposition by Republicans have left North Carolina one of a dozen states that have not accepted the match.

The Senate bill contains several provisions the study committee likely would have recommended anyway, and passing the measure will give the House something to consider. It is possible lawmakers could reconvene later in the year. Any final measure would go to the Governor, an ardent expansion supporter who wants to see progress on getting more people covered with health care in North Carolina.

The expansion proposal would likely cover 500,000 or 600,000 people. While about 2.7 million North Carolina residents are now enrolled in Medicaid, some current consumers whom the state has been required to keep on the rolls during the pandemic would ultimately be covered by expansion.

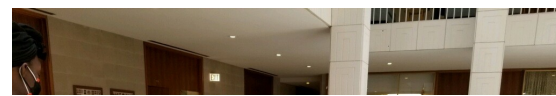
The bill directs a work requirement for expansion recipients to be developed and presented to federal Medicaid regulators for approval, but its rejection would not cancel expansion. Such mandates in other states have been struck down by courts or blocked by the President's administration.

Long-term prospects for final passage of the Senate package may have more to do with its non-expansion items. They include significant easements to the state's certificate of need laws, which regulate the expansion of health care facilities and equipment purchases, and the authorization of advanced-level nurses to work independently from physicians. The nursing licensure changes has been sought by the profession's lobbying association. Some senators and the North Carolina Medical Society raised concerns about those provisions in Wednesday's committee meeting, citing patient safety.

It is scheduled for third reading in the Senate this week and will go over to the house.

Domestic Workers

Senator Waddell meets with domestic workers from around North Carolina to discuss creating better opportunities and higher wages.





LGBTQ Ban

A bill from Senate Republicans that regulates teaching about LGBTQ people is almost surely going to be blocked by the Governor, if it gets that far. Expect to see it live on in the election, which is shaping up to be fought on many familiar culture-war battlegrounds as well as newer ones involving parents' role in schools. One supporter called it a litmus test for voting this fall. The General Assembly has Republican majorities in both the House and Senate, but not the supermajorities needed to override a veto from the governor unless Democrats vote with them.

Senator Waddell spoke from the floor concerning the provision in Senate Bill 755 about requirements for information about lessons prepared by teachers. After hearing from many teachers and educators, they believe that much of which could be asked of them is unnecessary because it already exists and a bill is not necessary.

LGBTQ Democrats Stop By

*Senator Waddell discusses
HB 755 - Parents Bill of rights
with Tyler Beall, NC President of
LGBTQ Democrats and Cameron
Pruette of LGBTQ Democrats of
Mecklenburg County.*



Medical Marijuana

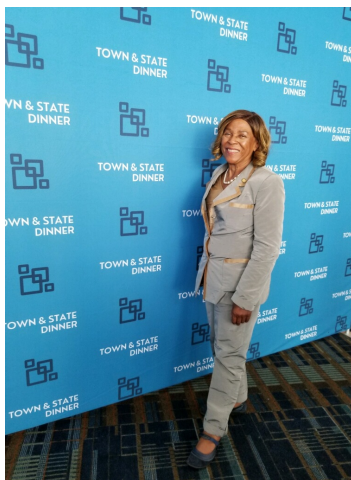
Medical marijuana legalization is back on the table at the North Carolina General Assembly, following nearly a year of uncertainty over its fate. Senate Bill 711 flew over multiple hurdles in 2021 with bipartisan backing. Once it had only one final committee to clear before going up for a vote it vanished from the calendar, leading to speculation about its future.

Late last Tuesday afternoon the legislature announced that the proposal will be up for a vote in that final committee, the Senate Rules Committee, on Wednesday morning. It passed in Rules Committee and in the Senate last week.

Although it passed in the Senate it still will not become law unless it also passes the House of Representatives and is signed by the Governor.

Town and State Dinner

Senator Waddell participates in the Town and State Dinner held in Raleigh with other Mecklenburg Colleagues as they discuss town and state legislation.



Senator Waddell is working tirelessly for Senate District 40, but she cannot do this alone. In November she will have an opponent running against her. Can she count on your help to continue working for the district?

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and cool.

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