

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**

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Date 2022-06-10 17:57

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NC Senate District 41



NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

June 10, 2022

Noteworthy Votes and Co-Sponsored Bills



Below is a list of some of the noteworthy bills I have voted on and co-sponsored for Short Session. You can see a full list of the bills I have introduced and voted on since the start of the biennium [here](#).

Noteworthy Bills I Voted YES on:

- [SB711](#), **NC Compassionate Care Act**. Legalizes medical marijuana for qualified

patients with certain medical conditions through a regulated medical cannabis supply system. While I agree that this is not a perfect bill, I voted yes because when it is regulated, marijuana is a safe alternative to pharmaceuticals for patients who want this option and because this bill was a compromise approach that could pass with a Republican majority at the General Assembly.

- **[SB762](#), North Carolina Farm Act of 2022.** A bipartisan bill that makes various changes to NC's agricultural laws, including making the exception for hemp in the NC Controlled Substances Act permanent (so we are following federal guidelines) and other various technical changes. This protects the hemp industry in NC. It has been a pilot program and will now be permanently authorized. This ensures that consumers will be able to continue to purchase CBD products and businesses will be able to continue to sell them.
- **[SB766](#), Organized Retail Theft.** Amends the organized retail theft statutes as recommended by the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Justice and Public Safety. Organized retail theft has been a growing concern in Mecklenburg County. I met with representatives from Home Depot earlier this year and was briefed on the sophisticated networks criminals use to steal and resell goods, driving up prices. This bill will also help address the baby formula shortage, as some products that are typically stolen are baby formula -- read more [here](#).
- **[HB149](#), Expanding Access to Healthcare.** Finally -- the North Carolina General Assembly has voted to expand Medicaid under the ACA! I was happy to vote yes on this bill, while I do have some concerns about the other provisions packed into the omnibus bill, overall this is an important step forward for healthcare access in North Carolina. Unfortunately, it looks like [the House will not be putting the bill up for a vote](#) until at least December.
- **[HB219](#), Amend Environmental Laws.** Expands DEQ's authorization for use of river debris funding, aligns Coastal Area Management Act public notice requirements for land-use hearings with existing local government notice requirements, and directs DEQ to study the express permit and certification review program.
- **[HB315](#), Arson Law Revisions.** Bipartisan bill that increases punishment for certain arson offenses, amends offense of arson resulting in injury of firefighter, law enforcement officer, fire investigator, or EMT, requires criminal background checks of applicants to fire departments, and prohibits persons convicted of certain crimes from serving as volunteer or paid members of a fire department.
- **[HB607](#), Amend Automatic Expunction.** Temporarily suspends the automatic expunction of dismissed criminal charges, not guilty verdicts, and findings of not responsible to allow court system to address complications in the new expunction laws.
- **[HB615](#), Jordan's Law.** Allows a court to temporarily extend a domestic violence order of protection if a court date to consider the extension has been set after the expiration date on the order. I collaborated with domestic violence advocates on this bill to ensure the language met their needs and was instrumental in getting it amended to ensure the extended DVPOs would be enforceable.

Noteworthy Bills I Voted NO on:

- **[HB755](#), Parents' Bill of Rights.** I voted no on this harmful bill because it attempts to make us pretend that LGBTQ people don't exist by banning any discussion about them. The bill requires disclosure of confidential counseling notes and forces students out against their will and/or before they are ready and encourages

lawsuits against teachers who share pro-equality resources.

Noteworthy Bills I Co-Sponsored:

- **[SB791](#), Inclusionary Zoning/Workforce Housing Funds.** Supplements the availability of affordable housing by allowing local governments to provide for inclusionary zoning and to appropriate funds to the NC Finance Agency for the workforce housing loan program.
- **[SB800](#), Law Enforcement Investment Act.** Strengthens policies and standards for law enforcement officers and appropriates funds for NC Justice Academy and NC Criminal Justice Fellows Program.
- **[SB805](#), Small Business Investment Grant.** Appropriates \$250M to the Department of Commerce to provide funds to small business due to the ongoing financial impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **[SB807](#), Student Mental Health Support Act.** Appropriates \$400M for a School Mental Health Grant Program.
- **[SB823](#), Crime Victims Compensation Fund Expansion.** Bipartisan bill that increases certain allowable expenses to be paid to victims of crimes from the Crime Victims Compensation Fund.
- **[SB826](#), Homeowner Solar Expansion Act.** Clarifies the law governing deed restrictions on solar collectors and allows for certain third-party sales of renewable energy.
- **[SB830](#), PFAS Firefighting Foam Replacement.** Bipartisan bill that provides funds for the replacement and disposal of firefighting foam containing PFAS.
- **[SB831](#), Opioid Overdose Prevention Act.** Appropriates funds to DHHS Division of Public Health to purchase opioid antagonists for local health departments to distribute free of charge to NC residents.
- **[SB848](#), Tax Relief for NC Employees & Unemployment Insurance Reform.** Reforms unemployment insurance laws, increases benefits allowed for partial unemployment, and authorizes the forgiveness of nonfraudulent overpayments caused by agency error.
- **[SB851](#), Restore Educational Sales Tax Holiday.** Reenacts the sales and use tax holiday for school supplies.
- **[SB852](#), Tax Relief on Essentials for Working Families.** Exempts feminine hygiene products, diapers, and groceries from sales tax.
- **[SB854](#), Carolina's Guarantee Scholarship Program.** Establishes the Community College Promise Scholarship Program.
- **[SB858](#), Retired Earned Income Tax Credit.** Reenacts the earned income tax credit.
- **[SB859](#), In-State Tuition Flexibility Act.** Authorizes certain beneficiaries of the federal Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative to receive in-state tuition at the University of North Carolina constituent institutions and community colleges in the state.
- **[SB862](#), Cancer Research/Funds.** Bipartisan bill that implements certain recommendations of the advisory panel on cancer research.
- **[SB867](#), High-Impact Tutoring Grant Program.** Creates a high-impact tutoring grant program to address learning loss resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic.
- **[SB897](#), Gas Tax Rebate Act.** Provides \$200 gas tax rebate to assist families to pay for the high costs of gas and other products associated with inflation.

Supporting *Roe v. Wade*



Group photo with advocates and legislators



I thanked the crowd for advocating in support of SB888

This week reproductive rights advocates from across the state came to Raleigh to express their support for abortion rights my bill, [Senate Bill 888](#), Codify Roe and Casey Protections, and HB1119, Reproductive Freedom Act. **I am proud to have support from the entire Senate Democratic Caucus on SB888, an important piece of legislation that seeks to maintain the status quo on abortion access in NC.** As I said in my remarks to the crowd, **we must ensure that we are protecting the right to choose and the right to privacy**, especially in the wake of a Supreme Court that seems increasingly likely to take those rights away from us.

Updates from Senate Judiciary Committee



The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) convened to debate the following bills over the past 2 weeks:

- [SB766](#), **Organized Retail Theft**. Details in the "Noteworthy Votes" section.
- [HB315](#), **Arson Law Revisions**. Details in the "Noteworthy Votes" section.
- [HB607](#), **Amend Automatic Expunction**. Details in the "Noteworthy Votes" section.
- [HB615](#), **Jordan's Law**. Details in the "Noteworthy Votes" section.

The Senate Page Program Returns!





After a 2 year hiatus due to the pandemic, the Senate Page Program is officially back at the NCGA. It was great to welcome Riley, a constituent and high school student at Pine Lake, to Raleigh for the week. She sat in on committee meetings, voting sessions, and assisted the Senate Clerk's office with various administrative tasks. Thanks so much for your hard work, Riley!

Press Conference Advocating for Menstrual Equity



Sen. Marcus with legislators and student activists at the press conference



Sen. Marcus with members of National Coalition of 100 Black Women Queen City Metropolitan Chapter

This week I joined Senator Murdock, Rep. von Haefen, Rep. Dahle, student activists, and members from the National Coalition of 100 Black Women Queen City Metropolitan Chapter at a press conference to celebrate our bill, [SB 832/HB 1087](#) – Menstrual Equity for All. This bill will **end the sales tax on period products and provide funding for the feminine hygiene products grant program in schools**. The bill addresses both poverty prevention and improved school attendance.

I am proud to be a primary sponsor of this vital piece of legislation and was inspired to hear from advocates from across the state as they have continued to support and work with local leaders on the important issue of menstrual equity.

Local Events with Davidson Police Department

**Saturday
June 11
11:00am-**

**Get Your
CONE WITH A COP**

**Chat with the Davidson Chief of Police
Penny Dunn
Monday, June 13 at 10:30am & 6:00pm**



Sponsored by the Davidson branch library, attend an informal chat

1:00pm



Join Davidson police officers, firefighters,
and Mecklenburg County EMS at
Whit's Frozen Custard (428 S. Main St.)



attend an informal chat
with Chief Dunn by
registering online at
cmlibrary.org/calendar

The Davidson Police Department is hosting two community events in the next few days. First, the department is excited to be back building connections with the community at its **fourth annual Cone with a Cop event** after a 2-year break due to COVID-19.

The public is invited to join officers at Whit's Frozen Custard (428 S. Main Street) on Saturday, June 11 from 11-4 when children will be able to interact with police officer while enjoying a sweet treat. Learn more about the event [here](#).

Second, Chief of Police Penny Dunn will be at the Davidson branch library on Monday, June 13 at 10:30AM and 6PM to answer questions from the community. You can register for the event [here](#).

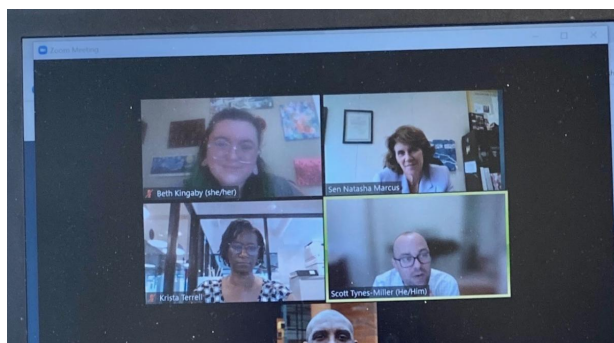
Gun Safety Interview with WCNC



Thank you to WCNC for interviewing me on the importance of gun safety measures last week. In the wake of the tragedies in Buffalo, New York and Uvalde, Texas (and the many mass shootings that have happened since), it is more important than ever to have legislators willing to call out the gun lobby and advocate for common sense reform. You can watch the full interview [here](#).

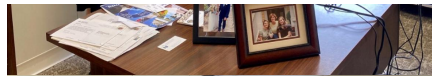
Advocacy Days at the General Assembly

One of my favorite parts of this job is when advocacy groups come to Raleigh for an advocacy day, where they meet with legislators to discuss their legislative priorities and share their personal stories. It's even better when the advocates are also constituents. An overview of some of my recent advocacy day meetings is below.





ARTS Advocacy Day meeting with Mecklenburg constituents and ASC. We discussed the importance of arts education and how it impacts SD41. I learned about a North Mecklenburg drummer who uses his art to teach math, called the Number Drummer. Very fun!



I met with members of the Mecklenburg Chapter of the Audubon Society to discuss various conservation efforts. They are prioritizing [House Bill 367](#), Uniform Heirs Partition Act.



I met with advocates from Huntersville and the Charlotte area with the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. They support [HB149](#) which would expand Medicaid, and [SB711](#), which would legalize medical marijuana. I am proud to have voted YES on both bills.



Thank you to the Cornelius town officials and staff members who stopped by the office. We discussed various local priorities, including funding for ocular melanoma and the need for road improvements in Cornelius.

Mecklenburg County Equity Investments Community Poll

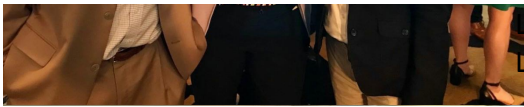


Mecklenburg County is investing \$2M as part of its Equity Action Plan, and wants to hear from residents for its [Equity Investments Community Poll](#). The County's proposed engagement strategy will include paid community navigators that will inform its engagement efforts related to the distribution of the money. **The deadline to provide feedback is today June 10, 2022.** Individuals can also call 980-314-2802 to provide feedback.

Charlotte Regional Business Alliance Legislative Reception



This week the Charlotte Regional Business Alliance hosted their annual Legislative Reception. Governor Cooper was the headline speaker and it was great to see so many familiar faces in Raleigh advocating for state support for initiatives to benefit our region. To the left is a photo of me with the Chair of the



Lake Norman Chamber of Commerce (L) and the Legislative Liaison for Atrium Health (R).

CVS Hosting Upcoming Local "Pop Up" Clinic Events



Project Health by CVS Health is offering a few "pop up" clinic events in Mecklenburg county this June.

Project Health offers an array of **free comprehensive health risk assessments**, including blood pressure, body mass Index (BMI), glucose and total cholesterol screenings. Once screened, we offer patients on-site consultations with bilingual (English/Spanish) nurse practitioners who will analyze results and refer patients who require additional medical attention to no-cost or low-cost medical facilities nearby or to their primary care physician. CVS pharmacists are also available to conduct one-on-one medication reviews and answer any questions patients may have.

The events are open to all consumers regardless of ethnicity, gender or insurance coverage and no appointment is required.

The events will be at the following times/locations:

- Saturday 6/11, 2PM - 6PM – 9308 Kendall Dr., Charlotte, NC 28214
- Sunday 6/12, 2PM - 6PM – 9308 Kendall Dr., Charlotte, NC 28214

CATS Hosting Public Meetings to Collect Feedback

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE
Join CATS to discuss service changes and provide feedback!

Pop-Up Meetings:

June 14, 6:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Huntersville-Gateway Park and Ride
10300 Compass Street, Huntersville, NC 28078

June 15, 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Northcross Park and Ride
17126 Northcross Drive, Huntersville, NC 28078

June 16, 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Cornelius Park and Ride
2300 Sefton Park Road, Cornelius, NC 28031

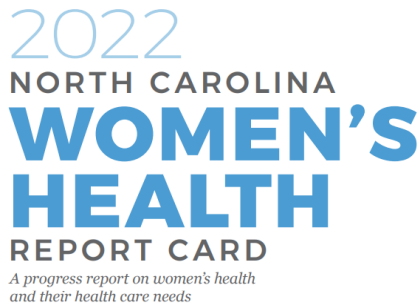
June 16, 6:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.
Davidson Gateway Drive & Griffith Street stop
Davidson, NC 28036

Virtual Meeting via CATS YouTube:
June 16, 12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

CATS

CATS is asking for feedback on their services throughout the month of June. There are several meetings planned in the North Mecklenburg area and online. Please provide your feedback to help CATS improve their local services.

2022 Women's Health Report Card



The Center for Women's Health Research (CWHR) at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine released the **12th edition of our North Carolina Women's Health Report Card**. This document is a progress report on the health and health care needs of North Carolina's 5+ million women. You can view expanded data sets, county-level information, health recommendations, and more at cwhr.unc.edu.

Manufacturing Expo in Charlotte



The Leading Design and Manufacturing Event in the Southeast

The all-new **IME South** is the six-in-one advanced design and manufacturing expo giving you a comprehensive view of the product lifecycle—from prototype to production. Come explore the latest insights and solutions spanning **medtech, packaging, automation, plastics, design, and processing**.



Charlotte Convention Center



6
Brands



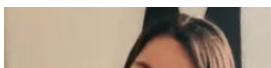
350+
exhibitors



3,000+
attendees

There will be a major manufacturing expo in Charlotte from June 14-16th. There will be a group of panelists and exhibits focused on **restoring and growing North Carolina's manufacturing performance levels**. You can read more about the free event [here](#).

Two Children Need Your Help



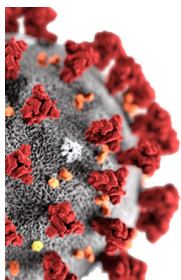


A friend who lives in Cornelius has a niece who is a survivor of the school shooting in Uvalde, Texas.ayah, age 10, is seriously injured after being shot twice and will need a lot of medical care as she recovers. You can donate to help her [here](#).



A Cornelius mother has reported that her daughter went missing this week from their Antiquity neighborhood. Kaelyn, age 14, has been missing since Tuesday. She is believed to be in the Cornelius area. If you see her or know anything, please call police. More information [here](#).

COVID-19 Updates



COVID-19 INFORMATION AND UPDATES

The [DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which is updated weekly every Wednesday, shows the following data points:

- Wastewater testing has shown an **increase** to 27.3m particles from 26.5m particles.
- COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments remains steady at 5%.
- COVID-19 reported cases for the week decreased to 24,941 cases from 27,552/

- COVID-19 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients this week **going up** at 833, compared to last week which was at 735.
- Booster rates are 56% for the total population. We have 77% of adults with at least one dose and 38% of children and teens ages 5-17 with at least one dose.
- 57.9% of cases are Omicron BA.2.12.1, 36.79% Omicron BA.2, 3.39% Omicron BA.5, 1.02% Omicron BA.4, 0.06% Omicron BA.1.1, and 0.83% for all other variants.

If you have COVID-19 symptoms do not wait to get tested and talk to your doctor about treatment. Don't wait. COVID-19 [treatments](#) can lower your risk of hospitalization or death. Talk to your doctor about treatment. Call 1-800-232-0233 to find out more about treatment. The call center can help if you do not have a health care provider. This line can accept callers in 150 languages, including English and Spanish. Treatments are not a substitute for [vaccination](#). Vaccines offer the best protection against COVID-19.

Additionally, **Mecklenburg County Public Health has free COVID-19 tests available at libraries across the county**, including the Huntersville location on Mondays and Thursdays from 10am to 7pm (16500 Holly Crest Lane). You can learn more about these tests [here](#).

Contact Our Office

Phone: (919) 715-3050

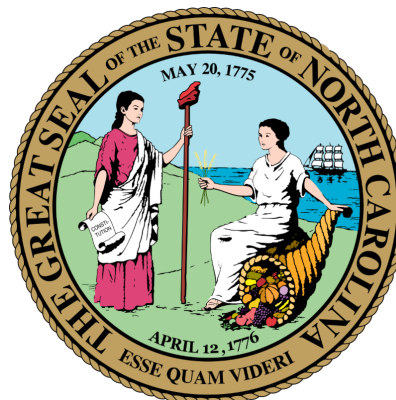
Email:

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Raleigh, NC 27603



How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

Senator Natasha Marcus | [Website](#)



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