

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
Date 2022-12-27 00:13



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, December 26, 2022
Volume 52

CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



Greetings:

As the year comes to a close, much of the biennium business has come to a close. No meetings were scheduled for last week nor the upcoming week. I have been busy in the district closing out the year by attending events. Many attended events highlighted next years agenda and of course I will continue to keep you posted.

Joyce Waddell

COVID HOSPITALIZATIONS

In the first week of this December, 28 percent of COVID hospital admissions were among people 80 or older. That's more than one-fifth higher than in the same period in 2020, when the figure was 23 percent of admissions. Previously, the rate of people 80-plus among admissions had declined to 13 percent at the 2021 midpoint. The hospitalization rate has been more closely watched since the incident of COVID deaths declined after vaccines were introduced.

In part, the trends may reflect a general decline in keeping COVID vaccination and booster rates at recommended levels, among the layering protection as well as for long-term care residents and staff. By layering protection for this population we can reduce the dangers. Things like staying up to date on vaccine and boosters, having ready access to testing, and seeking treatment early after testing positive are the best methods of prevention.

The concentration on getting vaccines and boosters to nursing homes reflects scientific studies that widely cite positive results from the medicines. A CDC study that showed a second booster provided 74 percent effectiveness against severe outcomes from the disease and 90 percent effectiveness against dying from it.

It is important to stay ahead of these issues by being vaccinated and taking safety precautions. It will help keep you and your family and community safe.

UTILITY COSTS

The U.S. Energy Information Administration is forecasting the second-largest annual increase in heating costs in years. The Department of Energy suggests turning down your thermostat to as low as you're comfortable. Even with that kind of cost-cutting, many North Carolinians still struggle with paying their heating bills.

Households of color were greatly impacted. A survey showed 40% of black households are most likely to report not being able to pay a part of their energy bill compared to 17% of white households. The North Carolina Low Income Energy Assistance Program is now accepting applications. It is a federally funded program that provides a one-time payment to help with heating bills.

I am hoping we can find a way, through the legislature, to assist North Carolinians in finding ways to keep their energy bills down.

Happy Holidays!!!!

I know I continue to advocate for vaccines and safety, but I do so because many believe that COVID and the flu are gone or might not affect them. That is not true! If it were the hospitals would be singing a different tune. I still believe that we should still be concerned about the viruses.

I recently received my 4th booster because I am concerned for my health and the health of those I come in contact with. Please consider getting vaccinated and practice safety around your family by washing your hands and wearing masks in public places with large crowds.

With this last week of 2022, I wish much success in 2023 for my constituents.

###

Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

[Unsubscribe sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org](mailto:sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)

Sent by joyce.waddell@ncleg.net powered by

