

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week
Senate Ethics Training
Committee Meetings
Rules & Operations of the Senate

Joyce Waddell

Senate Bills

(Click on bill title to view bills in their entirety)

SB 83 - NO HIGH RISK APPS/GOV'T NETWORKS AND DEVICES -
An act regarding the use of high-risk platforms on government
network and government devices. (Tik Tok inspired bill)

SB 187 - Teacher licensure/retired educator program - an act to
make changes to teacher licensure requirements.

These bills passed in the Senate and will move on to the House.

Teacher Licensure

We are losing teachers to technicalities and other issues such as they not being able to pass one part of their licensing exam (Praxis). SB 187 was filed to rectify this issue. This bill has passed that will assist in this endeavor. SB 187 passed one hurdle but still has to move forward in the House to be successful.

I spoke on the Senate floor in favor of this bill. I also filed a similar bill, but SB187 has replaced the bill I filed. This bill will assist with allowing those instructors who receive their advanced degrees to be recognized in the form of extra pay.

Teacher Licensure

Senator Waddell speaks on the Senate floor in favor of SB 187 - Teacher Licensure.



Teacher Degrees

Hundreds of Wake County teachers, social workers and other school employees will get thousands of dollars more per year under a new plan to reward them for achieving advanced degrees.

Historically, the state paid teachers 10% more per year if they had a master’s degree. In 2013, the Republican-led General Assembly eliminated the extra pay for master’s degrees and other higher degrees for teachers and social workers. To be exempt, teachers and social workers had to have at least completed one course toward their degree prior to Aug. 1, 2013. State lawmakers have continued to pay other certified instructional support staff such as counselors and psychologists for their master’s degrees because it’s required for their license. But the state stopped paying them and teachers for other advanced and doctorate degrees unless they also met the Aug. 1, 2013 deadline.

Multiple bills are filed annually by state lawmakers to restore providing extra pay for advanced degrees. But they have all died in committee.



Carolina Panthers

Senator Waddell and other members of the Mecklenburg Delegation participate in a discussion at the Carolina Panthers Stadium the merits of the Sports Betting bill.

NC Physicians Assistants

Senator Waddell listens to Physicians Assistants about their concerns regarding increased autonomy and working in rural communities.



Home Health Care Jobs

The in-home health care aides who work with disabled people across the state, giving families some respite, often make less than \$15 an hour. With wages in entry-level jobs up across much of the economy, they can make more at retail stores and fast food restaurants, according to industry officials and the families that depend on this help.

The companies and non-profits that provide these aides are pushing for a boost in state and federal subsidies. Advocates met with lawmakers Wednesday seeking \$140 million more a year split over a pair of government programs that reimburse these entities for the costs of in-home care. Turnover in aide jobs hovers around 50% annually, industry executives said.

Medicaid expansion, expected to pass the state legislature this week and ultimately pump billions of dollars in new federal funding into the state's health care system, is expected to help this industry.

These jobs are vital to patients who do not necessarily benefit from being hospitalized. I hope we can see this profession obtain the pay necessary for them to earn a living wage.

Black Farmers Advocacy Press Conference



Senator Waddell participated in the Press Conference for black farmers. The farmers were advocating for future legislation to receive funding.

Homegoing Service of Local Author



Senator Waddell and fellow National Council of Negro Women participate in a Homegoing service for Thelma McCoy, author of the well-known book "Trapped In A Lawyer's Den by Bloodsuckers".

COVID & Influenza Vaccinations

Receiving your free vaccine now will be vital before it becomes a paid medical expense. Soon there will be a cost to your insurance in order to receive a vaccine.

Please go get vaccinated soon.

Influenza and COVID-19 vaccines are safe, effective, and free.



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