

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.net>
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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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



Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

No Committee Meetings
Spring Break

Joyce Waddell

DACA Tuition

A recently filed bill would remove in-state tuition barriers for some undocumented college applicants. Senate Bill 683 grants in-state college tuition, reserved for residents of North Carolina, to people that meet the following criteria:

- The person graduated and received a high school diploma from a public school within North Carolina.
- The person enrolled in the institution of higher education in the receipt year immediately following his or her graduation and receipt of a high school diploma.
- The person attended North Carolina public or nonpublic schools for a minimum of four consecutive years immediately prior to high school graduation and receipt of a high school diploma.
- The person holds an unexpired North Carolina drivers license or special identification card.
- The person has received a social security number and card from the United States Social Security Administration.

By meeting the above requirements, one may have DACA status. This is based on the federal government's Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, a highly-debated policy that protects children raised in the United State by undocumented immigrant parents from deportation.

As of Oct. 31, 2022, the United States is no longer granting DACA status to applicants, yet those that gained it before will still have the same protections.

I agree with allowing these students to have an opportunity to get an education. We believe that continued education is a way to become a productive adult and I have always been an advocate for higher education as a tool to expand career opportunities.



Congresswoman Adams Opens New Office

*Senator Waddell congratulates
Congresswoman Alma Adams
(NC-12) on the grand opening of her
new Charlotte office.*

Community College Power

Another recent bill filed will provide legislators control in the future over who is named president of the state's community college system — an effort that comes as the system's board meets to select someone for that very role. Senate Bill 692 would restructure the governance of the 58-campus system, taking power away from the governor, other members of the Council of State and local school leaders at the state and campus level.

The timing of the bill is conspicuous. The State Board of Community Colleges met Wednesday and planned to meet again Thursday to discuss candidates for its vacant president position.

Reducing the governor's ability to make appointments to community college boards can damage the state's job recruiting efforts. Because the governor is the chief economic recruiter for the state, community college workforce training is a critical part of coordinated job recruitment, it makes no sense to destroy a system that is working well, simply to gain political power. It is believed that this move will hurt North Carolina long after the governor leaves office and we urge legislators not to pass this harmful legislation.

We have continued to chip away at the powers of the office of the Governor. This is not a smart way to govern North Carolina. With so much power coming to the General Assembly, at some point the office of the Governor will become obsolete.

Vaccinations

COVID and Influenza are not over and even though the numbers have diminished we still need to pay attention.

There are also other vaccinations that are important to ask your healthcare provider about. Please seek out those vaccinations that are available for you or your family.

Influenza, COVID and other vaccines are safe, effective, and most are available by asking your healthcare provider.



Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1106 Legislative Building, Raleigh, NC 27601

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