

## For Immediate Release



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## Greetings:

### At the General Assembly **For the Week**

*Committee meetings and voting sessions were held all week. We voted on several local and public bills. A few bills that were voted on are listed below. Please click on the bill number to access the bill in its entirety.*

**SB 44/SB 417 - MOBILE SALONS/COSMETIC SERVICES AT WEDDINGS** - An act to provide licensure of mobile beauty salons and ensure their safe and hygienic operation and to authorize cosmetic art services at wedding venues.

***I rose in the chamber and presented a statement of support on the floor for this bill because of the increased employment opportunities it will provide.***

### **SB 406 - CHOOSE YOUR SCHOOL, CHOOSE YOUR FUTURE**

- An act to expand eligibility for opportunity scholarships, to require a sequence of courses for early high school graduation, and to establish the early graduate scholarship program.

**SB 692 - COMMUNITY COLLEGE GOVERNANCE** - An act to clarify the authority of the president of the community colleges system, to make changes to the appointments to the state board of community colleges and local boards of Trustees, and to make technical changes to statutes governing community colleges.

### **Committee Meetings**

*Education/Higher Education  
Pensions and Retirement and Aging  
Finance  
Rules and Operations of the Senate*

*Joyce Waddell*

## Moral Monday

Several hundred people gathered on Monday to commemorate the 10th anniversary of a protest movement against Republican legislative policies in North Carolina, with its top leader asking them to commit again to a pro-worker and pro-voter agenda that also lifts up minorities. The Rev. William Barber, who coined the phrase "Moral Monday" was among the speakers at the event on the old Capitol grounds.

Earlier this month, Republicans regained veto-proof seat majorities in the General Assembly earlier this month when a House Democrat switched her registration to the GOP.

Because of the importance of the issues with marginalized citizens, other "Moral Monday" events have been held in states including Tennessee and West Virginia.

I believe that it is important for those of us in leadership to stand for those whose voices are deemed less important. I agree that North Carolina citizens should rally to let their voices be heard.

## **Press Conference**



*Senator Waddell participates in a press conference aimed at paid family leave.*



*Senator Waddell discusses services of Care Ring Healthcare clinic with representatives of the facility.*

### **Health Care Information Session**



*Senator Waddell and other members of the Mecklenburg delegation discuss services and the need for funds .*

### **Universal Vouchers**

Some lawmakers have agreed on a plan that will allow any North Carolina family to receive taxpayer funding to attend a private school. At a news conference Wednesday, some of the majority leaders said they will approve an expansion of the Opportunity Scholarship program that eliminates income eligibility limits for voucher recipients. Vouchers would be awarded based on a sliding scale with lower-income families getting the most money.

The “Choose Your School, Choose Your Future Act” cleared its first hurdle Wednesday when it was approved in the Senate Education Committee. The legislation is expected to become law this year because Republicans now have large enough majorities to override vetoes from the governor.

Critics of the bill believe it will hurt traditional public schools and allow wealthy families to get taxpayer support to attend private schools.

The Opportunity Scholarship program was initially promoted, when it was created in 2014, as a way to help low-income families escape failing public schools. The program has grown to serve 25,246 students. Last school year, it helped fuel the largest expansion in North Carolina’s private school enrollment since 1971. Over time, both the income-eligibility limits and the amount of the voucher have been raised. The program was expanded this school year so that a family making 200% of the amount needed to qualify for federally subsidized meals could get funding. That is an income of \$111,000 for a family of four.



## **Early Child Care**

*Senator Waddell was a key speaker at a book signing event. The author wrote the book in support of early child care.*



## **Vaccinations**

There is a new variant of COVID that has been discovered. Please continue to get your booster vaccine to keep yourself covered. Please seek out those vaccinations that are available for you or your family.



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