

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**

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 579 - Prevent Harm to Children](#) - An act to increase the punishment for disseminating obscenity.

[SB 636 - School Athletic Transparency](#) - An act to revise oversight of high school interscholastic athletics.

[SB 680 - Revise Higher Ed Accreditation Processes](#) - An act to revise the accreditation process for constituent institutions of the university of North Carolina and community colleges, to create a cause of action for postsecondary institutions damaged by false statements made to accrediting agencies, to establish a commission to study accreditation, and to make certain conforming changes.

I stood in the Senate Chamber to caution our colleagues not to change rules that are in place that take away what our school administrators are already accustomed to. To change the current process would cost our schools money and time.

[SB 692 - Community College Governance](#) - An act to require that the president of the North Carolina community colleges system be confirmed by the general assembly, to make changes to the approval process of local community college presidents, to prohibit community colleges from offering courses of instruction using state funds without prior approval by the state board of community colleges, and to make changes to the state board of community colleges and local boards of trustees.

[SB 20 - Care for Women, Children, and Families Act](#) - An act to revise the laws pertaining to the safe surrender of infants under the abuse, neglect, and dependency laws and to make conforming statutory changes.

Most have come to know this bill as the "Abortion Bill". This is a very controversial bill. I believe abortion is a very personal decision that should only be made by a woman and her medical provider.

Committee Meetings

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

Joyce Waddell

Abortion Ban

The Care for Women, Children, and Families Act, a 46-page bill that Republicans unveiled Tuesday evening as the product of more than three months of private talks between GOP lawmakers.

The bill was introduced Tuesday as a conference report to an existing bill, which has allowed it to fly through the legislature without having to go through the normal process that typically involves multiple committees and lawmakers offering amendments.

Under current law, abortions are allowed up until 20 weeks of gestation. The GOP proposal would bring that down to 12 weeks with exceptions up to 20 weeks for rape and incest, up to 24 weeks for “life-limiting” fetal anomalies, and without limit if a physician determines that the mother’s life is in danger due to a medical emergency.



Senator Waddell engages in conversation with abortion activists to ask about their thoughts on this legislation and why they feel it violates their human rights.

Abortion



Senator Waddell speaks on the Senate Floor on her opposition to SB 20.

Community College Leadership

The North Carolina Senate approved a bill Wednesday that would significantly restructure how the North Carolina Community College System is governed. But in its current version, the bill includes significantly less power for the system's president than legislators originally proposed to give that position.

Senate Bill 692 would give legislators more power over the state's community college system and local campuses, increasing the appointments they can make to governing boards at both levels, while stripping those powers from the governor and some local bodies.

The new version of SB 692 would — as in the original version — see the General Assembly gain more power in appointing members of the State Board of Community Colleges and local campus board of trustees. At the state board level, the General Assembly would gain the authority to appoint 18 members, up from eight currently. Appointments to local community college campus boards of trustees would also change under the bill, with the governor and local boards of education losing their ability to appoint four members each.

The General Assembly would be able to appoint eight members to each board — it has none now — and local boards of county commissioners would continue appointing four members.

The bill passed Senate 31 - 19.

This bill removes the authority of community colleges to vote for local leadership. I do not believe that removing power from those who understand local needs is a good idea. These changes are most certainly an overreach.

Vaccinations

It is important to continue staying in the know regarding your safety and the safety of your family with vaccines. The COVID pandemic has lessened, but the virus is still very much active.

Please ask your health provider their thoughts on how you can keep yourself clear of the virus and protect yourself and your family and friends.



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