

## Abortion Ban Bill Passes/Voucher Plan Passes/Bill Restricting Surgeries for Transgender Youth/Small Business Week Proclamation



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**Representative Nasif Majeed  
District 99 - Mecklenburg County**



## Abortion Ban Bill Passes General Assembly

Less than 48 hours after its introduction, NC House and Senate Republicans slammed a controversial abortion bill through the General Assembly on party-line votes. [Senate Bill 20](#) is now on Governor Cooper's desk and he has 10 days to veto the bill which he has pledged to do. Republican supermajorities in both the House and Senate have the numbers to override the Governor's veto and make [Senate Bill 20](#) the law of the land. That vote could happen as soon as next week.

If [Senate Bill 20](#) becomes law, how will the law change in North Carolina? First, it is important to recognize that after decades of relatively settled law around *Roe v. Wade* the will be the second major change in North Carolina's law in less than a year. The US Supreme Court's reversal of *Roe* last year was the first significant change in the law that revived an old state statute instituting an abortion ban. Earlier this year I co-sponsored [House Bill 19](#) to put the protections of *Roe* into state law and keep the status quo. House Republican leadership killed that bill by referring it to a committee that will never hear it.

While every legislative Democrat co-sponsored the *Roe* preservation bill and introduced it publicly early in the session for the world to see, legislative Republican leadership took the opposite approach. The contents of [Senate Bill 20](#) were never seen by legislative Democrats, even some legislative Republicans, and the rest of North Carolina until May 2<sup>nd</sup> and were passed by House and Senate on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Such a closed door approach was deliberate to silence the voices of the public and hide the details of the bill from the public.

The bill contains a dangerous and deadly abortion ban that will prevent people from getting the care they need and will have ripple effects throughout the health care system. In states where abortion has been banned, patients have been denied lifesaving care when pregnancies go wrong. There is mounting evidence that abortion bans lead to substandard medical care and higher rates of maternal mortality. The bill's has a stated ban of abortions at 12 weeks, but the fine print of the bill actually restrict abortions much earlier forcing a woman to carry a pregnancy against their will.

A woman's health, not politicians, should guide important medical decisions at all stages of pregnancy. Politicians should never interfere with medical best practices or private health care decisions.

## Voucher Plan Advances in NC House

A controversial voucher plan moved forward in the NC House last week threatening to divert billions of dollars from North Carolina public schools at a time when many of our local schools are struggling with staff shortages and our state ranks among the worst in the country for starting pay for teachers.

[House Bill 823](#) has the support of every Republican in the General Assembly. No Democrat has signed on to it. The bill would provide voucher payments to all parents who choose to send their children to private schools. It represents an enormous shift of funds from public schools to private schools, benefitting the wealthiest families in our state. The bill ultimately authorizes \$500 million in state tax money to go to private school vouchers.

There is no prohibition on religious private schools from receiving voucher funds. Many private schools are religious in nature, including Catholic, Protestant, and Islamic schools. These schools are largely exempt from state standards and testing. There are no accountability safeguards in the bill for how private schools will spend this money.

While [House Bill 823](#) has not passed yet, it is widely expected to be included in some form in the Senate Budget proposal that is being worked on behind

closed doors and will be revealed to the public a few days before the State Senate votes on it.

## **NC House Passes Bill Restricting Surgeries for Transgender Youth**

[House Bill 808](#) passed the NC House last week and heads to the NC Senate for its consideration. The bill would prohibit doctors from providing or referring out surgical gender transition procedures to those under 18.

Supporters of the ban argued it was never appropriate for minors to have this surgery and a one-size-fits-all government ban was needed. Opponents argued that doctors and families are in the best position to make these health care decisions and a comprehensive ban would only serve to target transgender youth who already feel marginalized and are at high risk for mental health issues and for suicide.

Like too many other bills this session, [House Bill 808](#) was jammed through the legislative process with little to no meaningful public input or even debate from legislators.

## **One North Carolina Small Business Grant Application Deadline and Small Business Week Proclamation**

Established by the U.S. Small Business Administration, which defines small businesses as companies with less than 500 employees, Small Business Week is a celebration of the entrepreneurial spirit of small businesses across the country. In 2022, North Carolina's 994,500 small businesses accounted for more than 99% of the state's businesses while employing 1.7 million people statewide.

Small businesses also contribute significantly to the flow of goods from North Carolina to the global market with more than 9,100 small firms exporting merchandise from North Carolina, generating 21.4% of the state's \$26 billion in exports in 2020.

North Carolina's strategic economic development plan, [First in Talent](#), identifies key goals to prepare North Carolina's workforce and businesses for success, including bolstering small businesses with inclusive opportunities for new entrepreneurs and women- and minority-owned firms.

The Commerce Department's [One North Carolina Small Business Program](#) awards nondilutive grants to innovative, tech-based small businesses that are applying for and/or have previously won federal research and technology awards. Since 2006, the Program has helped more than 500 small businesses create and maintain more than 1,200 jobs across the state and leverage an additional \$8 billion in follow-on investment. Applications for the Program are currently being accepted through June 30.

North Carolina provides many services to small businesses through NCWorks, community college small business centers, the N.C. Small Business and Technology Development Center, SCORE, the Veterans Business Outreach Center, the Rural Center and a toll-free information and referral service known as the Small Business Advisors hotline.

For more information about Small Business Week, including a copy of Governor Cooper's proclamation, [click here](#).

## **Apartment Association of North Carolina Lobby Day**



*Representing the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association - Liz Newkirk, Becky Ross, and Stephanie Jackson*

The Apartment Association of North Carolina's (AANC) held their Lobby Day at the NCGA. The AANC is North Carolina's leading voice for the apartment housing industry. As part of the AANC, the Greater Charlotte Apartment Association (GCAA) representatives met with me to discuss important industry information, as well as relevant housing issues. They also discussed their public policy priorities for 2023-2024.

The GCAA covers an eleven-county footprint and represents over 197,000 apartment units and 969 apartment communities, 304 suppliers, and over 200 owner management companies.

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