


FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE - Senator Natasha Marcus Speaks Out Against Latest Attempt to Restrict Voting Access in North Carolina

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Raleigh, NC – On June 05, 2023, Senator Natasha Marcus (SD-41) joined Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue (SD-14), House Minority Leader Robert Reives (HD-54), and Rep. Amos Quick (HD-58) in a press conference regarding their concerns about SB747, a bill Sen. Marcus called "the Jumbo Jet of Voter Suppression." Not only does SB747 eliminate North Carolina's long established 3-day grace period for the arrival of mail-in ballots, it undermines elections by defunding election boards and chips away at One Stop Early Voting.

Regarding the requirement that mail-in ballots arrive at the Board of Elections by Election Day, Sen. Marcus said, "This will result in valid votes being thrown away. Whose votes? We cannot know for sure whose ballots won't arrive by the new deadline. Some will be Republicans' ballots, some Democratic, some Independents. Many will be senior citizens, students attending college away from home, and people who are disabled, too ill or medically fragile to vote in person, because we know those folks rely on mail in voting more than others." She pointed out that if a ballot arrived the day after Election Day, SB747 would require election workers to "throw it in the trash. It's not trash; it's a vote and it should count."

Sen. Marcus and Sen. Blue also aired concerns about the associates of ex-President Trump who were involved in the crafting of the bill. Following reports of Cleta Mitchell, the attorney who helped Trump try to overturn the 2020 election, consulting with the bill sponsors last week, Sen. Marcus stated "North Carolina's 3-day grace period was enacted unanimously in 2009. Since then, at least 10 other states have followed our lead and done the same. My how times have changed! What was clearly a commonsense, bipartisan accommodation for the realities of how mail is delivered, has now become a wedge issue used by election deniers to drum up unfounded suspicion about election integrity to stroke the ego of a defeated ex-President and his lawyers, some of whom were in this very building just last week consulting on the drafting of this bill. It is very sad to see."

The bill also creates new illogical and undemocratic rules for one stop early voting, which will result in many voters being required to vote only a provisional ballot and take extra burdensome steps on order to have their vote count. In this way, the Jumbo Jet of Voter Suppression will make a mess of an orderly, popular process, disenfranchising many otherwise eligible voters.

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