

## \*\*\*SPAM\*\*\* FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Senator Natasha Marcus Opposes Voting Restriction Bill on Senate Floor



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### Senator Natasha Marcus Opposes Voting Restriction Bill on Senate Floor

**Raleigh, NC** – On June 21, 2023, Senator Natasha Marcus (SD-41) led the opposition to SB747, one of the bills up for a vote that day which target voting rights and election administration in North Carolina. The bill eliminates the 3-day grace period for mail-in ballots thereby invalidating many absentee ballots, fails to provide funding to election boards needed to administer safe and secure elections, chips away at One Stop Early Voting (aka Same Day Registration) and suppresses the votes of certain citizens.

Senator Marcus proposed three amendments designed to reduce the potential harm of SB747. The first of these amendments would have kept North Carolina's 3-day grace period for mail-in ballots, which has been in place for over a decade to give ballots time to arrive via the USPS so long as they are postmarked by Election Day. The bill sponsors argued that it's worth the risk of valid votes being thrown away because the bill will speed up the process of determining the winner on Election Day. In response Sen. Marcus stated, "Vote counts on Election Day are always preliminary. And if an election is close, recounts will be required and SB747 won't do a thing to speed that up. So, the bill doesn't do what they say it will do. It only creates problems: valid votes getting thrown away like old socks."

When her first amendment was tabled, Senator Marcus proposed that if a voter's ballot is rejected because it arrives after Election Day, the State Board of Elections would be required to notify the voter that their vote was not counted and why. This amendment was rejected as well.

The third of Sen. Marcus's amendments addressed the bill's requirement that many more same day registration voters be given only a provisional ballot, which often are not counted. SB747 will disproportionately impact young voters, military members, and voters of color by making same day registration harder, demand documents they don't tend to have, and force them to return to the county board of election in order to get their vote to count. This amendment was also rejected.

Sen. Marcus stated "North Carolina voters like to be able to vote early, and to use one stop early voting. They don't want a bill like this that makes that harder, especially for people who live here and have a right to vote here but may not be able to provide all the paperwork you are requiring in order for them to prove their name and address – like young voters, who move often and may be registering for the first time. Like college students who don't have or need a NC driver's license. Republican voters use same day registration too, especially in Presidential elections. So, attempts to make voting harder actually hurt all voters, not just those that tend to vote Democratic."

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