

For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
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Greetings:

At the General Assembly *For the Week*

There are so many reasons to pass the state budget. Most of all the \$40 plus thousand dollar a day price tag that will be passed on to the taxpayers. The Governor's appointed committees are continuing to meet throughout the state.

Joyce Waddell

Veto Overrides

The Senate met Wednesday to Override 6 of the Governor's vetos. In addition to the overrides, the Senate also voted on ten other bills.

S 49, Parents Bill of Rights
H219, Charter School Omnibus
H 488, Code Council Reorg & Various Code Amend
H 574, Fairness in Women's Sports Act
H 628, Charter School Review Board
H 808, Gender Trans/Minors

The bill, titled the Parents' Bill of Rights, was first proposed by Senate Republicans last year and revived at the start of this year's session, then sat in limbo for several months before quickly clearing final votes in both chambers in late June. In early July, the Governor vetoed the bill along with two others that would affect LGBTQ+ athletes and minors.

In both chambers, the votes fell along party lines. Two other contentious bills that would prevent transgender women and girls from playing on women's sports teams (HB 574, Fairness in Women's Sports Act), and prohibit certain surgeries and medical treatments for transgender minors (HB 808 Gender Trans/Minors), also broke largely along party lines.



HBCU Living Legends Scholarship Gala

Senator Waddell brought greetings to participants in the HBCU Living Legends Scholarship Gala held at the Le Meridien in Charlotte, NC.



The gala helps to provide scholarships to students enrolled at an HBCU and celebrates the achievements of HBCU alumni graduates that impact the community and the world.

Chronic Absenteeism

More than 30% of North Carolina students are chronically absent from school — nearly double the rate that existed before the pandemic. North Carolina's spike in chronic absenteeism, meaning students missed at least 10% of the school year, is part of a troubling national trend.

The absences come on top of time students missed during school closures and pandemic disruptions. They cost crucial classroom time as schools work to recover from massive learning setbacks. Absent students miss out not only on instruction but all the other things schools provide — meals, counseling and socialization. In the end, chronically absent students — missing 18 or more days a year, in most places — are at higher risk of not learning to read and eventually dropping out.

North Carolina had the 13th highest rate of chronic absenteeism in the 2021-22 school year. North Carolina also had the 10th-highest percentage point increase. Absences nationally were more prevalent among Latino, Black and low-income students, according to analysis.

That is reflected as well in North Carolina's data, with the chronic absenteeism rate being 38% for Black students and 35% for Hispanic students. It was 26% for white students and 14% for Asian students. Nearly 470,000 North Carolina K-12 students were chronically absent in the 2021-22 school year. That is an additional 225,000 students since the pandemic.

The pandemic was the reason for many absences. I believe that many families are still operating in pandemic mode. Unfortunately, chronic absenteeism puts our students even further behind.

Community Activities



Senator Waddell discusses legislation with various community groups during this year's Pride parade event.

Vaccines

Please get vaccinated. It can save your life or the life of your loved ones.



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