

## For Immediate Release



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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate  
Mecklenburg County

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**Greetings:**

At the General Assembly  
**For the Week**

*I went to Raleigh to meet with the President and Vice President. The discussion was around the expansion of Medicaid. I attended several district meetings.*

*Joyce Waddell*



**Visit from the President  
and Vice President of  
the United States**



*Senator Waddell and other elected officials participated in a visit from President, Joe Biden and Vice President, Kamela Harris. The President and Vice President were in Raleigh to talk about the expansion of Medicaid and healthcare in general for North Carolinians.*

## Dual Enrollment

Dual enrollment in North Carolina saw a notable 12% increase during the 2022-23 academic year, as revealed in a recent report presented to the General Assembly. More than 78,000 students statewide engaged in the Career and College Promise (CCP) program, facilitating high school students' access to tuition-free college courses.

CCP encompasses three distinct pathways: college transfer, career and technical education (CTE), and Cooperative Innovative High Schools (CIHS), commonly known as early colleges. These structured pathways offer students avenues to accumulate credits, often leading to certificates and associate degrees.

As the trend of dual enrollment continues its upward trajectory, leaders have been urged to reimagine program design to better support student success.

## Workplace Regulations

In a recent development Labor Commissioner Josh Dobson made the decision not to adopt two proposed rules advocating for mandatory masking in specific situations, physical distancing, and enhanced safety protocols in workplaces, especially in scenarios resembling the challenges posed by infectious diseases like COVID-19.

The Labor Commissioner, in a news release on Wednesday, announced his choice not to adopt the rules suggested in December. He stated that this decision was reached "after carefully reviewing the rulemaking petitions, the record, public comments, listening to both sides and considering the North Carolina Department of Labor's statutory authority."

Unfortunately, many North Carolinians died or became seriously ill because our state had no pandemic policies set for the workplace. It was such a divisive topic, with so many pandemic deniers.

I too, believe in personal freedoms but when your personal freedom infringes on other's health and welfare there must be a meeting of the minds to develop a satisfactory middle ground. I believe that people have the right to believe whatever they want to, but we must use sound judgement and put some policies in place to protect the majority.

## Vaccines

*Vaccines are still available to those who want it. Please contact your healthcare provider if you would like to receive a vaccine.*



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