

For Immediate Release



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Date 2024-04-15 21:41



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 15, 2024
Chapter V
Volume 15

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly *For the Week*

This past week was filled with district meetings and events.

I will be heading back to Raleigh in two weeks to begin the short session. If you have any concerns or issues that need to be dealt with legislatively, please contact my office. My Raleigh office is open Monday - Friday 9 am - 5 pm.

Joyce Waddell

FAFSA Complications

There have been delays in University Financial Aid Packages Due to Complications with Redesigned FAFSA. The redesigned Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by the U.S. Department of Education aimed to simplify the process for college-bound students seeking federal financial aid. However, instead of streamlining the process, students encountered various issues, including being unable to complete the form, leading to delays in universities receiving applicant data.

During a hearing before the U.S. House of Representatives' Committee on Education and the Workforce, several college leaders, including UNC-Chapel Hill's Vice Provost for Enrollment, testified about these challenges. Feldman revealed that her office was significantly behind schedule, having received only 60% of the usual number of applications.

There are approximately 79 colleges and universities in North Carolina that depend on the funds that come from the federal aid packages. This can delay funding to the schools and delay entrance to students who are dependent on this money. I hope we can get this issue corrected soon, especially since fall semester is right around the corner.



Majority Rising NC

Senator Waddell alongside fellow legislators, participate in an annual summit titled "Shaping our Future." The summit highlights ideas of changes in the political climate.

Confusion Over Room Numbers in North Carolina General Assembly Addressed

As we approach the beginning of the short legislative session, many constituents will be visiting the general assembly. We want the visits to be smooth and easily managed.

For years, confusion has plagued both legislators and the public navigating the North Carolina General Assembly. Specifically, three conference meeting rooms on the first floor of the Legislative Building have been a source of this perplexity, as they have been designated with two different room numbers depending on the entrance used.

Committee members and staff often reported to LB 1128, while members of the public attending these sessions found themselves searching for room 1027, located in a different quadrant of the building.

To alleviate this confusion, conference rooms 1027/1128, 1124/1224, and 1228/1327 have been given distinct names: Dogwood, Long Leaf Pine, and Scotch Bonnet, respectively. Recently installed plaques indicate the stylized names for easy identification.

The General Assembly attorney explained that complaints about the room numbers were common, prompting the Legislative Services Officer to select the new names.

Now when you arrive at the General Assembly, you will have a better understanding of locations of those meeting rooms. Myself and many of my colleagues will feel more sure of locating and providing information of locations of the conference rooms.



Naming Ceremony

Senator Waddell joins Donta Wilson at the naming ceremony for the Residence Hall at UNC Charlotte in his honor.

Vaccines

*Did you know over 7 million people have died from COVID?
Did you know COVID can be prevented?*

We can write many different statistics about prevention, what to do, and other measures that can prevent, but if we just see statistics and hear about preventative methods and do nothing about them, none of this means anything.

My hope for my constituents is that you receive good information so that you can make informed decisions.



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