

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

At the General Assembly
For the Week

The North Carolina General Assembly started the Short Session on
Wednesday, April 24th at 12:00 Noon.

Joyce Waddell

Record Expunctions

A series of legislative reforms proposed by the North Carolina Second Chance Alliance aims to dismantle barriers facing individuals with criminal records following their release from incarceration.

With the current state of affairs, we make life exceedingly challenging for those reentering society from the justice system.

A focal point for advocacy efforts is Senate Bill 562, the Second Chance Act, which proposes automatic expungement of dismissed criminal records. Although initially passed by both chambers of the legislature in 2021, its implementation was halted nine months later. Carpenter emphasized the urgency of reinstating the automation promised by the Second Chance Act through Senate Bill 565, which also incorporates necessary fixes to overcome identified challenges.

Additionally, Second Chancers advocate for House Bill 888, aimed at abolishing debt-based driver's license suspensions, and Senate Bill 339, which addresses driver's license revocations.

House Bill 778 seeks to regulate the dissemination and removal of mugshots, acknowledging the need to mitigate their harmful effects.

It is important to note these bills have not passed into law, but are important to stay in front of to ensure all have equal opportunities.

I believe that once a citizen has completed their sentence, new opportunities should be afforded. Having barriers removed to begin a new life path is important.



Hispanic Community Advocates

Some members of the Hispanic community came to the General Assembly to advocate against HB 10, which requires sheriffs to cooperate with ICE, and sat down with Senator Waddell to discuss the merits of this bill.

School Vouchers

State Senate leaders are advocating for a significant increase in funding for private school vouchers, proposing to allocate \$248 million in the upcoming school year to accommodate all families who applied, regardless of their income level.

Under the proposed expansion, approximately 16,000 students from households earning up to \$115,400 annually for a family of four would be covered, along with around 40,000 students from higher-income households.

In response, Republican senators defended the proposal, emphasizing the state's obligation to provide education and asserting that using private institutions fulfills this mandate.

Although the bill passed, all democrat legislators voted against the bill.

We are walking into dangerous territory as it relates to taking money from the public school system. Public schools are already working in a deficit and things like technology and additional teachers will have to be placed on pause. Our students deserve more.

NC Budget & Tax Center Advocates

Senator Waddell participated in the advocacy day held by the NC Budget & Tax Center. The group wanted to impress upon legislators that taxing should be fair and equitable for corporations and individuals.



Charlotte Shootings

On Monday, April 29, 2024, tragedy unfolded in Charlotte. The U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force, comprised of officers from multiple agencies, was conducting an investigation in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Police Department's North Tryon Division when an armed suspect opened fire. In total, 8 officers were struck during the gunfire. The officers were rushed to area hospitals. Three U.S. Marshals Fugitive Task Force Officers tragically succumbed to their injuries upon arrival at the hospital and one CMPD Officer who fought for his life but tragically passed.

In response to the incident, multiple roads, including Interstate 77, were closed to facilitate ambulance access to hospitals swiftly. Footage broadcasted on television depicted ambulances racing to hospitals with sirens blaring, escorted by vehicles.

The tragic event marks the first marshal shot and killed in the line of duty since November 2018, according to agency records.

This tragedy was unfortunate. I spoke on the Senate floor regarding the fallen and injured officers. My thoughts and prayers extend to them and their families. Session was adjourned in memory of the injured and fallen and will be entered into the Senate journals.

To hear floor speech honoring the injured and fallen, please click link below:

[See Floor Speech](#)

NC General Assembly

Visit www.ncleg.gov, the official website of the North Carolina General Assembly. Use this website as a tool to track bills, find and communicate with your state representatives, as well as follow chamber activity, meetings and issues before the General Assembly. The 2022 Short Session began on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 noon.

Determine Your Legislators

Representation in the NC House, the NC Senate, and the US House is determined by legislative district. Click [here](#) for more information on who your legislators are.

Keep Track of Bills – Interested in tracking bills through the legislative process? <https://www.ncleg.gov/BillLookup/>. Just type in a bill number in the search bar (ex: HB1) at the top of the page.

Bills & Laws - <https://www.ncleg.gov/Legislation>

Legislative Calendar/Watch Committee Meetings

Most committee hearings are broadcast. Keep up with what's happening at the NC General Assembly. See up to date meetings calendar [here](#).



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