

For Immediate Release



From Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
To <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>
Reply-To <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>
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From the Office of Sen. Joyce Waddell, NC Senate
Mecklenburg County

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CONTACT: Sen. Joyce Waddell
(919) 733-5650
Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.net
<https://joycewaddell4nc.com/>



Greetings:

The week held many activities and events in the district.

Joyce Waddell



UNC-Charlotte's Women of Influence

*Senator Waddell pictured with
UNC-Charlotte Chancellor
Sharon Gaber and other
women legislators
representing Mecklenburg
County, participate in an
event sponsored by UNC-
Charlotte. This event
highlighted women of
influence of the NC General
Assembly.*

University Enrollment

Public universities in North Carolina have reached a new enrollment record, with the UNC System's 16 institutions collectively enrolling 247,927 students this year. This represents a 2.2% increase from last year and includes growth in transfer and graduate students, as well as the largest freshman class in the System's history. This achievement comes despite a national decline in first-year college enrollment.

Some UNC System institutions, such as UNC Asheville and UNC Greensboro, have already felt the effects of these shifts, experiencing steep enrollment declines. Maintaining and building upon this year's gains will require strategic efforts to adapt to evolving demographic and societal trends.



National Council of Negro Women 2024 Founder's Day Tea Health & Wealth Event

Senator Waddell speaks about the history of the National Council of Negro Women and the importance of good health habits.

The event highlighted the importance of health and financial wellness.

Juvenile Detention Centers and Prolonged Isolation

Teenagers in North Carolina's juvenile justice system are reportedly being confined to their rooms for up to 23 to 24 hours a day, according to a federal lawsuit and advocates for youth in custody. This practice continues despite acknowledgment of research showing the mental and physical harm caused by prolonged isolation.

The lawsuit, filed in U.S. District Court on behalf of three teenagers held at a County juvenile detention center, seeks class-action status to represent thousands of youth who pass through the state's detention facilities annually. Attorneys argue that using isolation violates federal constitutional rights, leading to significant physical, psychological, and social harm.

The North Carolina Department of Public Safety (DPS), which oversees juvenile detention facilities, denies the allegations, asserting there is no policy endorsing regular solitary confinement. However, officials have admitted that "administrative room confinement" has been used due to critical staffing shortages, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic. These shortages have, at times, led to juveniles spending extended periods in their rooms to meet legally mandated staff-to-youth ratios.

Detention centers face increased strain due to overcrowding and state law change requiring individuals under 18 charged in adult court to be housed in juvenile facilities rather than jails.

We will continuously monitor how we as the legislative branch can alleviate any situation that creates unsafe conditions.

NC General Assembly

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Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1106 Legislative Building | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

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