

For Immediate Release



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Greetings:

Last week at the General Assembly Finance Committee and Health Care Committee met to discuss SB 24, Government Mandates Increase Healthcare Costs.

Joyce Waddell

Changes in Health Benefits for State Employees

Teachers and state workers have historically relied on strong health benefits to balance the lower salaries and demands of public service jobs. However, concerns are growing that these benefits are becoming less reliable. Rising health care costs are expected to impact the State Health Plan, with potential increases in premiums by 2026.

A proposal under consideration would introduce salary-based premiums, requiring higher earners to contribute more to their health coverage. This comes at a time when employees are already dealing with increased out-of-pocket expenses following the transition from a long-time plan administrator to a new national insurance provider.

Many employees have reported higher costs for medical services, including specialty visits, physical therapy, and mental health care. Some have seen their copays double, causing frustration and concern about affordability. Online discussions among educators reflect growing dissatisfaction, as many had expected minimal changes under the new system.

The State Health Plan serves approximately 750,000 people across North Carolina, representing about 8% of the insured population. North Carolina is ranked among the most expensive states for health care coverage. Reports indicate that residents are increasingly delaying doctor visits or skipping medical procedures due to financial concerns, which could have negative long-term health effects.

I will continue to advocate for price transparency and it is important that, broader collaboration among stakeholders is necessary to address these financial challenges. As the State Health Plan works to balance costs and maintain coverage for public employees, further policy decisions will shape the future of health benefits for teachers and state workers.



NCNW Annual Luncheon

Senator Waddell participates in the Annual National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) Luncheon.



NC General Assembly

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