

## 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:**

*Last week at the General Assembly we voted on 2 bills. HJR 15 - House Joint Resolution and SB 115 - General Assembly Appointments where many appointments for various boards, commissions, and other State departments were made by Senate vote.*

*Joyce Waddell*



**UNC-Charlotte Legislative Discussion**

*UNC-Charlotte sponsored a dinner for the Mecklenburg Delegation and other leadership members of the General Assembly. The dinner allowed the university's administration to discuss their legislative requests .*

*UNC-Charlotte students discuss their educational progress at the dinner.*

## Teacher Testing

North Carolina lawmakers have introduced legislation aimed at easing the path to a teaching career by removing several standardized testing requirements tied to educator licensure. Under the proposed law, students in teacher preparation programs would no longer need to pass standardized exams as part of their admission or to demonstrate mastery of teaching practices. Additionally, the new bill would eliminate testing requirements for obtaining an initial teaching license and prevent the state education board from establishing any new standardized test policies for teacher licensure.

This legislative effort comes at a time when public schools in the state face significant teacher shortages, with thousands of vacancies reported as schools struggle to attract new talent. A decline in the number of college students choosing education majors has led to a greater reliance on individuals who enter the profession through alternative licensure pathways while continuing their training on the job.

Supporters of the bill argue that standardized tests do not accurately measure a candidate's potential to perform effectively in the classroom, as these exams tend to evaluate test-taking skills rather than true teaching ability. They contend that the current testing requirements create unnecessary barriers, particularly for underrepresented groups, and contribute to the ongoing teacher shortage by deterring prospective educators.

I believe that the proposed changes reflect a broader debate over how to balance maintaining high educational standards with making the teaching profession more accessible. My colleagues and I are seeking solutions that address the critical need for qualified educators while ensuring that teacher preparation remains rigorous and effective.



## American Heart Association

*Members of the American Heart Association came to the General Assembly to lobby for placing vital equipment in all North Carolina schools.*

## College Funding

The Joint Appropriations Committee on Education recently reviewed the educational and financial conditions of the state's 36 independent colleges and universities, which enrolled over 83,000 students this year. The private higher education sector is recognized as the state's largest private employer.

A significant legislative request involves restoring eligibility for private institutions to receive funds from the state lottery. Lawmakers are considering whether a portion of the lottery funds could be directed to increase the needs-based scholarship fund by \$8 million, with expectations that such contributions could gradually expand over time.

## NC General Assembly

Visit [www.ncleg.gov](http://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.

*You can view bills in full by visiting [www.ncleg.gov](http://www.ncleg.gov).*

***Please don't forget to consider getting vaccinated. There are viruses and other illnesses plaguing our community that can be prevented by vaccines and proper handwashing.***



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