

For Immediate Release



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

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Greetings:

Last week at the General Assembly we voted on 11 bills. Below are a few that were voted on:

SB 77 SCHOOL CONTRACTED HEALTH SERVICES
SB 227 ELIMINATING "DEI" IN PUBLIC EDUCATION
SB 58 AG/RESTRICT CHALLENGE TO PRESIDENTIAL EOS
SB 59 REVISE VOLUNTARY AG DISTRICT LAWS
SB 261 ENERGY SECURITY AND AFFORDABILITY ACT

Joyce Waddell

State of the State Address

The Governor addressed the General Assembly with the State of The address took place before members of the General Assembly, the Council of State, and the state's judiciary, marking an early highlight in the legislative session. The legislature has already begun advancing bills related to immigration, Helene recovery, and diversity, equity, and inclusion policies, while also reviewing state agencies for efficiency.

The most significant task ahead will be the passage of the state budget, a two-year spending plan that will require negotiations between the governor and the legislature. If a veto occurs, Republicans would need only one additional vote to override it, making budget negotiations a key focal point in the months ahead.

I believe North Carolina has many opportunities to continue to be a state that ranked a great place to live and raise a family. We legislators will have to come together to create legislation that has sound merits that provide equality for all. We have the potential to show other states how to work together no matter our different political affiliations.

Senate Bill 77 - School Contracted Health Services

Parent Choice in Nursing Services for Students with Disabilities

SB 77 was voted on in the Senate last week and will now be sent to the House for consideration.

Importance of the Parent Choice in Nursing Services Bill

This bill is significant because it enhances parental choice, continuity of care, and access to specialized support for children with disabilities who require nursing services as part of their Individualized Education Program (IEP). Here's why this legislation matters:

1. Ensures Continuity of Care for Children with Disabilities

- Many children with complex medical needs rely on consistent and familiar nursing care to thrive in a school setting.
- Allowing parents to choose a nurse who has previously worked with their child ensures continuity, reducing stress and anxiety for the student.
- Familiar nurses understand the child's unique medical needs, communication styles, and emotional triggers, leading to better health outcomes.

2. Empowers Parental Decision-Making

- Parents play a critical role in managing their child's healthcare and education.
- This bill recognizes that parents should have a say in who provides medical care to their child during school hours.
- Instead of being assigned a nurse unfamiliar with their child's needs, families can select someone they trust and have confidence in.

3. Strengthens Compliance with Special Education Laws

- The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) mandates that schools provide a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) to students with disabilities.
- By offering flexibility in nursing care, the bill reinforces the commitment to FAPE by ensuring students receive necessary health services in an equitable manner.

4. Reduces Medical Risks and Emergency Situations

- A nurse familiar with a child's medical history is more likely to recognize early warning signs of distress and respond appropriately.
- This reduces the likelihood of medical emergencies, miscommunication, and improper care.

I believe this bill is important because it prioritizes student well-being, parental rights, and access to quality healthcare while maintaining fiscal responsibility and school compliance with federal education laws. By allowing parents to choose a nurse they trust, the legislation helps create a safer, more supportive learning environment for children with disabilities.

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.

You can view bills in full by visiting 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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