

## 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 the General Assembly passed 3 bills in the Senate.*

***HB 47 Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - PART I*** - An act to provide additional appropriations and extend regulatory flexibility for communities and citizens impacted by hurricane Helene.

***SB 50 Freedom to Carry NC*** - An act to protect a person's right to carry a concealed handgun without a permit.

***HB 58 Various Local Elections*** - An act to extend the terms of the mayor and members of the board of commissioners of some local counties (Town of Kittrell, Asheboro City Board of Education, Anson County, Scotland County, and Caswell County Board of Commissioners).

*Joyce Waddell*



## ***SB 50 - Freedom to Carry***

*I spoke against this bill on the Senate floor for several reasons but mainly because it allows 18 year olds to carry a gun without a permit.*

## SENATE BILL 50 - Freedom To Carry

Senate Bill 50 makes major changes to North Carolina's firearms laws, law enforcement support provisions, and criminal penalties.

Key provisions of the bill include:

### 1. Permitless Concealed Carry:

- Allows individuals aged 18 and older to carry a concealed handgun without a permit, provided they are not otherwise prohibited by state or federal law.

Some positive aspects of the bill are:

### 1. Firearm Restrictions and Penalties:

- Updates the list of individuals prohibited from carrying concealed firearms, including those with certain criminal convictions, mental health adjudications, or substance use issues.
- Establishes new offenses and penalties for:
  - Discharging a firearm by a felon during the commission of a felony (Class C felony).
  - Possessing a firearm by a felon during a felony (Class F felony).
  - Increases penalties for assault with a firearm against law enforcement, emergency personnel, and medical responders (now a Class B1 felony).
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This bill significantly alters the landscape of gun laws in North Carolina by expanding access to concealed carry without permits.

I stood in opposition of this bill because it weakens the safety of Law Enforcement and encourages those NC citizens that are too young to make good sound decisions. Some negative aspects are:

- Removes requirements that would increase the risk of firearms falling into the hands of individuals who are untrained, reckless, or dangerous.
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- Allows anyone over 18 to carry a concealed handgun in public spaces without even basic instruction, increasing the potential for accidental shootings, improper use, and deadly confrontations.
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- Would make it easier for dangerous individuals, including those with histories of violence or instability, to carry concealed weapons without any oversight.
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- Fails to provide adequate protections for schools, businesses, and private property owners who wish to restrict firearms on their premises. By allowing individuals to carry concealed weapons without a permit, we are making it more difficult for businesses, hospitals, places of worship, and community centers to maintain safe environments for employees and visitors.



## ***HB 47 Disaster Recovery Act of 2025 - PART I***

*I was present to witness the signing of HB 47 to assist the citizens in the western part of NC who were affected by hurricane Helene.*

## 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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