

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:

The General Assembly held session last week and voted on eight bills and one Senate Resolution honoring a former public servant.

Joyce Waddell

Medicaid Access

On June 5, 2025, the North Carolina Senate Health Committee approved two significant bills aimed at expanding Medicaid access and reforming child welfare laws.

House Bill 546: Medicaid Modernization

This legislation proposes to suspend, rather than terminate, Medicaid benefits for incarcerated individuals, aligning state policy with forthcoming federal requirements set to take effect in January 2026.

Additionally, the bill seeks to make permanent the 12-month postpartum Medicaid coverage for new mothers, a provision initially established in 2021 and set to expire in 2027. This extension is intended to improve maternal and infant health outcomes and address racial disparities in infant mortality rates.

House Bill 612: Fostering Care in NC Act

This bipartisan bill aims to reform North Carolina's child welfare system. Key provisions include expanding the definition of "abused juveniles" to encompass victims of human trafficking and mandating assessments within 24 hours for abuse reports and 72 hours for neglect reports.

The bill also introduces measures to enhance the role of biological fathers in the adoption process, allowing them to file a petition to be involved in custody or adoption proceedings.



***Honoring a Public
Servant***

*Senator Waddell congratulates
former US Senator Elizabeth
Hanford Dole after receiving a
Senate Resolution.*

North Carolina's Task Force on Child Care and Early Education

At its third meeting on June 2, 2025, North Carolina's Task Force on Child Care and Early Education delved into the financial challenges faced by childcare providers. This proposal has **not** been voted on by the General Assembly, but recommendations have been provided to legislators.

The conclusion drawn was that without additional external funding, enhancing teacher compensation and maintaining affordability for families would be challenging.

Both the North Carolina House and Senate budget proposals for the upcoming biennium include increased funding for childcare subsidies. Advocacy groups and task force members have emphasized the importance of this measure to stabilize and sustain childcare services across the state.

Early childcare education helps to prepare our children for the future. I believe in preparing our children to be able to compete globally.

Senator Joyce Waddell and the Mecklenburg Delegation to Host Community Listening Session

Charlotte, NC — Senator Joyce Waddell, representing North Carolina Senate District 40, in collaboration with fellow members of the Mecklenburg County Legislative Delegation, invites the public to a community listening session.

Event Details:

- **Date: Saturday, June 14, 2025**
- **Time: 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM**
- **Location: Allegra Westbrooks Regional Library**
- Community Room B
- 2412 Beatties Ford Road
- Charlotte, NC 28216

This session offers constituents an opportunity to engage directly with their state legislators, discuss pressing issues, and share insights on matters affecting the Mecklenburg community. Topics may include education, healthcare, public safety, economic development, and other legislative priorities. Several community organizations have indicated that they will have representatives in attendance.

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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