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THE RALEIGH REPORT NEWSLETTER NOVEMBER 2016



Thank You For Honoring Me With Your Vote

I want to thank my fellow residents of the 106th district in Mecklenburg County for honoring me with your vote on Tuesday, November 8, 2016.

I am deeply moved by the expression of confidence from my community, and I thank you from the bottom of my heart. I am immensely grateful to the family, friends, and loyal supporters who so generously contributed their time and effort to my campaign during this years election season.

Being an effective legislator involves listening to constituents, translating their concerns into workable proposals, and building consensus to implement them. I could not do this job without the involvement and openness of the people I represent. You have taken the time to share with me your ideas, your concerns, and your aspirations, and I sincerely appreciate your willingness to discuss what really matters to you. Not only have you entrusted me with the responsibility of speaking on your behalf as your representative, but you also continue to provide me with the ideas and feedback I need to do it as it should be done. For that, I thank you once again.

Our beautiful state face many challenges in the coming months, but we can overcome them if the General Assembly rises above politics to do what is best for its constituents. I look forward to continuing to work for you as your State Representative to restore jobs and prosperity to North Carolina and to making it once again a place where people of all ages can count on a future.

Thank You,
Rep. Carla D. Cunningham
106th District

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Lawmaker will return to Raleigh for the long session Wednesday, January 11, 2017 at 12:00 PM. In 2017, the Legislature will be in session from January through August.

Use the links below as tool to track bills, find and communicate with your state House and Senate members, and to follow chamber activity, meetings and issues before the General Assembly.

[HOUSE:](#)

Convenes Wed , Jan 11, 2017 12:00PM

[House Chamber Audio](#) | [\(Archives\)](#)

[House Calendar](#)

[Chamber Dashboard](#)

[Bills with House Action by Day](#)

[House Bills Filed by Day](#)

[SENATE:](#)

Convenes Wed, Jan 11, 2017 12:00PM

[Senate Chamber Audio](#)

[Senate Calendar](#)

[Chamber Dashboard](#)

[Bills with Senate Action by Day](#)

[Senate Bills Filed by Day](#)

[North Carolina State Supreme Court Justices - Current as of 2016](#)



North Carolina Supreme Court Justices - Current as of 2016



Chief Justice Martin



Associate Justice Beasley



Associate Justice Edmonds Jr.



Associate Justice Irvin, IV



"Happy Thanksgiving"

From Representative Carla Cunningham and Sherrie Burnette

On this Thanksgiving Day, we want to express our gratitude for all of the wonderful blessings in our life.

First and foremost, we are grateful for our amazing families. They motivate us to reach our full potential. We are also grateful for our parents, who instilled good values in both of us.

We are so blessed to be citizens of this great nation. We are thankful for our inalienable rights, including life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. We are thankful for small steps and giant leaps. We are thankful for the woman on the bus and the man with the dream. We are thankful for the bravery of the greatest generation. In short, we are thankful for over 200 years of American history defined by courageous, innovative, and thoughtful men and women.

Please take some time on Thanksgiving Day, November 24, 2016 to reflect on the blessings in your life and to express your gratitude. We hope you have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday!

Sincerely,
Rep. Carla Cunningham and Sherrie Burnette



[Donation Drive for People Affected by Hurricane Matthew!](#)

Dear Charlotte Community,

I extend a heartfelt "Thank You" for your donations, volunteer services and participation in our donation drive for people affected by Hurricane Matthew. Your generous donations made this the most successful event.

Saturday, October 22, 2016 was a magical day as the donation drive kicked off helping neighbors affected by Hurricane Matthew. The goal of the donation drive was to provide much needed items for people affected in the Robeson County Community. Your efforts truly assisted in meeting the goal.

With your excellent reputation and with your future support, we will continue to be "A Neighbor You Can Count On" by being at the forefront of serving those in need in our community and communities a far.

Again, thank you for your assistance!

Warm regards,
Rep. Carla Cunningham
106th District

[Report: NC Spending More to Stop Medicaid Fraud Than it Recovers](#)

A report released Tuesday by the legislature's internal oversight agency recommends changes in how the state's Medicaid program goes after fraud and waste. The report noted that North Carolina is spending millions of dollars on claim reviews that are not fraudulent, and attorneys aren't able to follow up on many that are. In the 2013-14 fiscal year, for example, the state paid contractors \$3.7 million to hunt out fraudulent claims, but the state was able to recover less than \$500,000. One of the reasons for the imbalance is that investigation couldn't pursue some fraud claims in court



Associate Justice Hudson



Associate Justice Newby



Associate Justice Jackson

Mike Morgan won election to replace Associate Justice Edmunds Jr.



Mike Morgan

[POST-ELECTION BUZZ: GOP leadership wants 2 more state Supreme Court justices :: WRAL.com](#)

Post-election buzz has erupted that the Republican legislative leaders want to add two more justices to the State Supreme Court to keep the court's GOP majority. They're upset that voters replaced Republican Supreme Court Justice Bob Edmunds with Democrat Mike Morgan – which would give the Democrats a 4-3 majority on the high court.5

Word is that the leadership would have the General Assembly vote to [add the additional justices](#) during a special session to be called sometime in December to deal with Hurricane Matthew relief issues.

Once approved, Gov. Pat McCrory would [appoint the new justices](#) before the end of the year. McCrory, a Republican, came up short by 5,000 votes to Democrat Roy Cooper in his re-election bid. He's refused to concede the election while provisional and absentee ballots are being counted. If there's no shift in the vote, McCrory will be out of office at the end of the year.

"This is the height of disrespect of state's voters," said state Senate Minority Leader Dan Blue, D-Wake, who acknowledges he'd also heard about the court packing plan to add the justices and said he takes it seriously. "To add justices just because they don't like the outcome of the election is outrageous."

He said it will cost hundreds of thousands of taxpayer dollars to add the two justices. There has been no significant change, or increase, in the workload of the court over the last 10 years, according to the most recent [Statistical and Operation Report](#) of the state appellate courts.

[Read more at http://www.wral.com/post-election-buzz-gop-leadership-wants-2-more-state-supreme-court-justices/16224129/#HIWVd0v6mH3bRl3.99](http://www.wral.com/post-election-buzz-gop-leadership-wants-2-more-state-supreme-court-justices/16224129/#HIWVd0v6mH3bRl3.99)



Stick It to Stigma

By Rob Marko-Franks | Nov. 09, 2016

Despite massive leaps forward in understanding the biological underpinnings of mental illness, the way people affected by mental illness are treated hasn't seen comparable improvements. People who live with mental illness are often ostracized and expected to simply change their thoughts and behavior. Too often, our society doesn't recognize that these things are just out of a person's control. Too often, we fail to offer those with mental health conditions the same concern and compassion we would show someone with a physical condition.

How can this be? Well, stigma—the stereotypes, prejudice and discrimination directed towards those living with mental illness—is very real and influential. When people without mental health conditions paint a broad idea of what mental illness looks like, they often create two distinct groups: "us" and "them," "normal" and "abnormal." Fear and a lack of education is what causes this reaction.

Many people are unaware of what causes mental illness and how it impacts people in varying degrees. This isn't necessarily their fault as much as it is a failure in the education and health care systems. A lot of it also comes from society: The American notion of "pulling yourself up by your bootstraps" causes people to believe that any and all problems can be solved through grit and hard work. This is a closed-minded approach that fails to account for realistic expectations.

Those living with mental health conditions don't want it any more than a person would want a broken leg. But focused thought and effort can't make depression go away, just as focusing on healing won't fix your shattered bone.

because they couldn't get enough reliable evidence due to problems with the NCTracks enrollment system. Also, the report noted, it's very difficult to get money back from providers who may have gone out of business or who are willing to go to court. Meanwhile, health care providers say that the reviews in place take too much time and paperwork and are driving some providers out of the program.

Read more here: <http://www.wral.com/report-nc-spending-more-to-halt-medicaid-fraud-than-it-recovers/16239692/>

Study: School Funding Formula Favors Wealthy Counties, Lacks Transparency
North Carolina lawmakers are considering changes to the way public schools are funded after a study found that the state's current funding model is too complex, lacks transparency and accountability and at times favors wealthier counties. The study, compiled by the General Assembly's Program Evaluation Division, was presented to a joint legislative committee Wednesday. Committee Co-Chairman Sen. Fletcher Hartsell, R-Cabarrus, called the report the "lengthiest and most detailed study" the committee has ever done on K-12 funding in North Carolina. He said it is the first time he is aware of that they "have actually looked at an in-depth review of the specifics" of how school systems and charter schools are funded.

Read more here: <http://www.wral.com/study-nc-school-funding-formula-lacks-transparency-favors-wealthier-counties/16243913/>

3 NC Protests Target Atlantic Coast Pipeline

Oil and gas pipelines planned or under construction around the country have drawn protests - from neighbors, environmentalists and Native American groups. Now it's North Carolina's turn. Three protest walks are planned this weekend in Cumberland, Nash and Robeson counties by a group hoping to stop construction of the \$5 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline. The 600-mile pipeline would carry fracked natural gas from shale oil fields in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania to power plants in Virginia and eastern North Carolina. Virginia-based Dominion Energy is building the pipeline, with three other large utilities: AGL Resources of Atlanta, Duke Energy of Charlotte, and Piedmont Natural Gas of Charlotte, which recently merged with Duke. The Alliance to Stop the Pipeline says the pipeline would cross Native American, African American, and low-income communities in eastern North Carolina, affecting water, climate, public health and land.

Read more here: <http://wfae.org/post/3-nc-protests-target-atlantic-coast-pipeline>

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is being pushed back by several months, lawyers challenging the law said. Magistrate Judge Joi Elizabeth Peake of the United States District Court for the Middle District of North Carolina granted a request from the state's Republican leaders to delay the trial while the Supreme Court considers whether to hear a Virginia case on transgender restroom access, according to a brief entry in the federal court docket. James Esseks, a lawyer with the American Civil Liberties Union on the team representing three transgender residents, said on Friday that the judge's order meant that the case would be pushed to May from its scheduled November trial date. A Justice Department spokesman, David Jacobs, confirmed in an email that the trial would be delayed until May.

Read more here: <http://www.nbcnews.com/feature/nbc-out/trial-over-north-carolina-s-transgender-bathroom-law-hb2-delayed-n642411>

Special Thanks

Thank you for voicing your issues, thoughts, and concerns through your many e-mails, phone calls, and office visits. I appreciate receiving input from you and am honored to have served you in the 2015-2016 Legislative Session.

Please feel free to contact my Legislative Assistant Ms. Sherrie Burnette at 919-733-5807 (cunninghamla@ncleg.net) or me at 704-509-2939 (Carla.cunningham@ncleg.net) if you have any questions or concerns. We are here to serve you.

You can listen to legislative sessions, committee meetings, and press conferences on the General Assembly's website at www.ncleg.net. Once on the site, select "Audio" and then make your selection for the House Chamber, Senate Chamber, Press Conference Room or Appropriations Committee Room.

Stigma is unfortunately not a problem that we can eradicate overnight. We need to teach people that mental illness is a complicated and unique problem, that every case is different and treatments that work for one person won't necessarily work for another. There is no panacea for the brain's problems.

No matter how much we educate or try to normalize the experience of mental illness, stigma can and probably will persist. But maybe by stressing the similarities between physical conditions and mental conditions—discomfort, worry, struggle, pain—then maybe more people might realize that those with a mental health condition need just as much support and understanding as anyone else. It's not a perfect solution, but it's a good place to start.

This article was provided from the Nami website written by Rob Marko-Franks is a former Advocacy & Public Policy intern at NAMI National in Arlington, VA. He is a student at Grinnell College interested in helping students and their families tackle the challenge of asking for help.

Read more at: <http://www.nami.org/Blogs/NAMI-Blog/November-2016/Stick-It-to-Stigma#sthash.115u6vvp.dpuf>

To learn more information on Nami: <http://www.nami.org/>

2016 Summaries of Substantive Legislation

Session Year 2016

The Legislative Analysis Division publishes, by subject area, summaries for the final edition of all substantive legislation of general applicability and certain local legislation having general import. The summaries are prepared by the nonpartisan legislative staff and do not constitute an official statement of legislative intent. Until 30 days after the adjournment of the current year's session, the summaries are subject to change.

[All 2016 Summaries by Subject \(docx\)](#)

- [Agriculture and Wildlife](#)
- [Information Technology](#)
- [Alcoholic Beverage Control](#)
- [Insurance](#)
- [Children and Families](#)
- [Labor and Employment](#)

- [Constitution and Elections](#)
- [Occupational Boards and Licensing](#)
- [Courts, Justice, and Corrections](#)
- [Property, Trusts, and Estates](#)
- [Criminal Law and Procedure](#)
- [Retirement](#)
- [Education](#)
- [State Government](#)
- [Environment, Natural Resources, and Energy](#)
- [Transportation](#)
- [Finance](#)
- [Utilities](#)
- [Health and Human Services](#)
- [Vetoed Legislation](#)

Awareness Events for November 2016

-  [Lung Cancer Awareness Month](#)
-  [Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month](#)
-  [National Alzheimer's Awareness Month](#)
-  [American Diabetes Month](#)
-  [National Epilepsy Awareness Month](#)
-  [Diabetic Eye Disease Month](#)
-  [Great American Smokeout Month \(American Cancer Society\)](#)
-  [National Child Mental Health Month](#)
-  [Healthy Skin Month](#)
- [American Indian & Alaska Native Heritage Month](#)
- [National Family Caregivers Month](#)
- [National Family Caregivers Month](#)
- [National Home Care Month](#)
- [National Hospice Month](#)
- [Prematurity Awareness Month](#)

8-14: World Kindness Week/Day 13

14-20: (week before Thanksgiving) American Education Week



Emphysema Awareness Week



14: (always 14) World Diabetes Day

15: (always 15) National Philanthropy Day



15 (always 15) America Recycles Day

18: (third Thursday) Great American Smokeout

**Donation Drive for People Affected by Hurricane Matthew at
Mayfield Memorial Missionary Baptist Church
(Please visit my facebook page for more photos)**







New Hope United Methodist Church, Rowland NC





Rep. Charles Graham District 47-Lumberton
greeting Rep. Cunningham.



Rep. Cunningham, Rep. Charles Graham Dist. 47 (Robeson), Rep. Garland Pierce Dist. 48 (Hoke,
Richmond, Robeson, Scotland) and the members of the Matthew Road Wolves Motorcycle Club.

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