

*****SPAM*** Latest Updates from the NCGA**

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NC Senate District 41 Newsletter

June 24, 2022

Statement from Senator Natasha Marcus on Dobbs Decision

This is outrageous. The US Supreme Court has released a torrent of disrespectful rhetoric and a dangerous injustice with its decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health* today. Any American who might become pregnant, or anyone who cares about someone who could, should be very angry and very worried. The Court has taken the alarming step of overturning precedents that have been in place for my entire lifetime in order to rip away women's rights to maintain basic autonomy over our bodies. The Dobbs decision has given a green light to forced births, maternal hardships, and rapists having more rights than the women they forcibly impregnate.

It is hard to believe that this is America in 2022. Women and girls in many states will immediately become second-class citizens, without the right to make decisions for themselves about whether and when to have a child. Women and girls in many other states, like North Carolina, won't immediately lose their rights, but are now one bad election cycle away from losing them. Instead of being the land of the free where all people are guaranteed liberty, America will now be a disturbing patchwork where women in some states are forced to continue unexpected, unviable, unsafe and/or unwanted pregnancies, while other states become crowded safe havens for abortion care refugees forced to flee in order to access the care they need. People, many of whom are already mothers, will die and suffer harm because of this terrible, unjust ruling by an activist Supreme Court.

As a member of the North Carolina General Assembly, I call on legislative leaders to pass my bill, SB888, Codify Roe and Casey, to maintain the status quo on abortion access in North Carolina and make sure that North Carolinians can continue to access the reproductive healthcare that we need. For now, abortion is still legal in North Carolina. We

cannot slide backwards or allow the government to block people from making our own decisions about such deeply personal matters.



I spoke with the chief political reporter for Queen City News/FOX Charlotte today about the *Dobbs* decision. Portions of that interview will air today at 5pm and 6pm and will be available on their website by 7pm.

Noteworthy Votes



Below is a list of some of the noteworthy bills I have voted on for the past 2 weeks of Short Session. You can see a full list of the bills I have introduced and voted on since the start of the biennium [here](#).

Noteworthy Bills I Voted YES on:

- **[SB201](#), Various Motor Vehicle/Dealer Changes** (for concurrence). Criminalizes as a Class 1 felony the unlawful possession of a catalytic converter, requires the DMV to issue a US Army Special Forces special registration plate, and makes other clarifying and technical changes.

- **HB159, Education Law Changes.** Bipartisan comprehensive education bill that makes a variety of changes including removing codified reference to PowerSchool, modifying school crisis requirement kits, making changes to school nutrition laws, and clarifying the definition of an eligible disabled veteran for the Patriot Star Family Scholarship program.
- **HB169, State Health Plan Data Transparency-AB.** Bipartisan bill that amends the State Health Plan's use or disclosure of Claim Payment Data, but provides that Claim Payment Data is exempt from the public records law and any other provision requiring information and records held by State agencies to be made public.
- **HB252, Modify Surety/Bail Bond/Bondsmen Provisions.** Revises the qualifications and examination requirements for bail bondsmen and runners and modifies the ground for setting aside a bail bond forfeiture.
- **HB619, Weston's Law.** Imposes safety requirements for elevators in certain residential rental accommodations and directing the building code council to amend the state building code. Named for a child who died due to an unsafe elevator.
- **HB869, State Bar Grievance Process/Ethics Records.** Creates a grievance review panel to allow respondents to appeal privately a public discipline decision by the Grievance Committee before appealing to the Disciplinary Hearing Commission.
- **HB1068, UNC Non-Appropriated Capital projects.** Bipartisan bill that authorizes the financing and construction of various capital improvement projects by constituent institutions of UNC System.

Noteworthy Bills I Voted NO on:

- **SB256, Rockingham Community College BOT** (for concurrence). Currently the Rockingham Community College Board of Trustees has 4 appointments each by the local board of education, county commissioners, and the Governor. The bill changes the appointments to 2 by the board of education, 6 by the county commissioners, and 4 by the General Assembly. The bill further politicizes our higher education institutions, which is why I voted no.

Families First Press Conference



Senator Marcus with Senator Chaudhuri and advocates



Senator Marcus addresses the press

Last week I stood in the NCGA press room with fellow Senate Democrats and citizen advocates to **highlight our plan to Put Families First with policies that respect reproductive freedom by Codifying the Protections of Roe and Casey, reduce gun violence, address inflation and household budgets, provide better mental healthcare,**

and fully fund our public schools. Among other things, I said that we must pass SB888, my bill to Codify the Protections of Roe v. Wade to keep the status quo on abortion access in NC, and that we must work together to address the epidemic of gun violence which is harming us all, especially our children.

The press conference was streamed live and covered by several media outlets. You can watch it [here](#) (my remarks are from 1:24 to 7:20 and 22:44 to 30:32).

Updates from Senate Judiciary Committee



The [Senate Judiciary Committee](#) convened to debate the following bills over the past 2 weeks:

- **[HB252](#), Modify Surety/Bail Bond/Bondsmen Provisions.** See details in "noteworthy bills" section.
- **[HB560](#), Public Safety Reform.** Makes various changes to laws involving public safety, including authorizing the Secretary of Public Safety to assign probation officers to perform additional duties during a declared state of emergency or a natural disaster and increasing the amount of allowable expenses related to funeral, cremation, and burial under the Crime Victims Compensation Fund to \$8,000.
- **[HB674](#), Require DNA for Various Convictions.** Adds additional offenses to the list of offenses requiring submission of a DNA sample after a conviction or a finding of not guilty by reason of insanity and clarifies that medical facilities and medical professionals cannot bill sexual assault victims for forensic medical examinations.
- **[HB869](#), State Bar Grievance Process/Ethics Records.** See details in "noteworthy bills" section.
- **[HB1008](#), Sex Offender/Probation/Victims Changes.** Makes clarifying changes to sex offender registration process, allows judges to delegate to probation officers a limited amount of authority to reduce terms of supervised probation, allows for warrantless searches of individuals on post-release supervision, and expands rental protections for victims of certain crimes.

Meetings with Local Leaders

Elected leaders and staff from Huntersville and Mecklenburg County came to Raleigh over the past 2 weeks. It was great to see everyone in Raleigh and discuss how we can work together for the benefit of our communities.





Meeting with Huntersville Mayor and Commissioners. We discussed the importance of education and transportation funding and the need for research funding for ocular melanoma.



Mecklenburg Delegation Members with Mecklenburg County Commissioners and the County Manager. We met on County Commissioner Advocacy Day.

Safeguarding Free and Fair Elections

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF NORTH CAROLINA
SESSION 2021

FILED SENATE
Jun 20, 2022
S.B. 916
PRINCIPAL CLERK

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SENATE BILL DRS45583-LUa-105A

Short Title: Safeguard Fair Elections Act. (Public)

Sponsors: Senators Chaudhuri and Murdock (Primary Sponsors).

Referred to:

1 A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
2 AN ACT TO PROVIDE INCREASED PROTECTIONS FOR VOTERS AND ELECTIONS
3 OFFICIALS AGAINST VARIOUS FORMS OF INTERFERENCE WITH AN ELECTION
4 AND TO APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PURPOSES.
5 The General Assembly of North Carolina enacts:

NC Senate Democrats are protecting our elections against the Big Lie and related tactics to undermine democracy. This week, we filed the **Safeguard Fair Elections Act (SB 916)** to make sure NC votes are counted accurately and that election officials cannot overturn the will of the voters with threats, intimidation or coercion. I am proud to be a co-sponsor of this important piece of legislation.

Interview with Charlotte Post on Menstrual Equity



Thank you to The Charlotte Post for writing a front page story about **Senate Bill 832, Menstrual Equity for All**. This bill would eliminate the sales tax on menstrual products and provide grants for schools to buy period products to provide to students for free, which would encourage school attendance.

I am proud to have collaborated with both House and Senate colleagues and to have the support of students and the **National**



Organization of 100 Black Women Queen City Metropolitan Chapter on this important and often overlooked issue. We have heard there is bipartisan support for this issue, so I am hoping that this funding will be included in the budget. You can read the article [here](#).

Meetings with Healthcare Advocates

I met with numerous health care providers over the past few weeks to discuss legislative proposals. In every group we celebrated the incredible milestone of finally passing **Medicaid expansion** in the Senate. We also discussed advocating for cancer patients (and the impacts of ocular melanoma in the district), the importance of comprehensive healthcare services, and the need for fair wages for all direct care workers. We also discussed the provisions of the SAVE Act.



Leukemia and Lymphoma Society



North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists



American Cancer Society



North Carolina Academy of Family Physicians





Home Health Care Advocates

Medical Marijuana Bill Stalls in NC House

N.C. Republicans reject medical marijuana legislation



I am disappointed that GOP leadership in the NC House has rejected [Senate Bill 711](#), **the Compassionate Care Act**. While an imperfect bill, I was proud to vote yes on this bill to legalize medical marijuana in North Carolina to ensure that we are not making criminals out of caretakers. The bill will not be debated or voted on any further for the year, and its future is uncertain. You can read more about these updates [here](#).

Mecklenburg County to Host Teen Dating Violence Training for Parents

Teen Dating Violence: Parent Training

What a parent MUST know about teens, dating, and relationships!

In-person Thursday, July 14, 6:00-7:00 p.m. at the Valerie C. Woodward Conference Center

OR

Virtual Friday, July 15 12:00-1:00 p.m.

See: www.townofdavidson.org/policeannouncements



Love Speaks Out and Mecklenburg County are offering a free training session about teen dating violence for parents on July 14 and 15 (virtual and in-person options). This free training will help parents understand what teen dating violence is, develop skills to create a safety plan with teens, learn where to seek help, and much more.

You can learn more about the training [here](#) and sign up to attend [here](#).

Showing Support for Taiwan

A SENATORIAL STATEMENT COMMENDING TAIWAN'S RELATIONSHIP WITH THE US

WHEREAS, Taiwan has been experiencing continuous threats from the authoritarian neighbor of China, which has encroached on Taiwan's security by flying in Taiwan's air defense identification zone (ADIZ), disseminating disinformation, and launching cyberattacks and

repeatedly excluding Taiwan from the international system, as demonstrated through China's denial of Taiwan's participation in the World Health Assembly (WHA); and

WHEREAS, in 2021, the United States and Taiwan experienced strengthening in bilateral relations; the Secretary of State relaxed restrictions on official contacts with Taiwan; both sides resumed the eleventh Trade and Investment Framework Agreement (TIFA) Council meeting; the United States continues to approve its arms sales to Taiwan, demonstrating that the United States has always placed great importance on Taiwan's defense capabilities; most recently, the United States included Taiwan in the 2021 Summit for Democracy; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan has contributed extensive resources to help the international community, including the United States, to combat the COVID-19 pandemic through the global donation of tens of millions of surgical and N95 masks, hundreds of thousands of isolation gowns, and tens of thousands of thermometers, reciprocally, the United States has donated 4 million doses of the Moderna vaccine to Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, Taiwan is the United States' ninth-largest trading partner, and the United States is Taiwan's second-largest trading partner; Taiwan supports an estimated 330,000 jobs in the United States; Taiwan is North Carolina's twenty-first-largest export market and fourteenth-largest import market; Taiwan invests \$165 million in North Carolina; recently, South Carolina, New Mexico, Montana, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania have established or decided to open their trade offices in Taiwan to attract more investments;

NOW, THEREFORE, it is imperative to continue supporting the relationship between Taiwan and the United States, as both countries deeply cherish the common values of freedom, democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned certifies that the foregoing statement was read in the Senate on the twenty second day of June, 2022.

I was proud to join a bipartisan group of Senators to sign on to a Senatorial Statement in support of Taiwan. Taiwan has faced continuous threats from China, and I felt it important to sign on to this letter as we have seen what has been happening with the war in Ukraine.

Summertime Storytime with Davidson Police Department



**SUMMERTIME STORYTIME
WITH
DAVIDSON POLICE**

**THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1:30 AND 5:30 P.M.
OUTSIDE THE DAVIDSON PUBLIC LIBRARY**

**Bring a blanket and
come enjoy a story!**

Davidson
POLICE
DEPARTMENT

The Davidson Police Department invites area children to attend a Summertime Storytime on **Thursday, June 29 on the steps of the Davidson Public Library**. Join local officers as they read Officer Buckle and Gloria by Peggy Rathmann.

For more information, contact Resource Officers Kanita Boone or Michael Prather at DPDCommunityEngagement@townofdavidson.org.

First Monkeypox Case in North Carolina





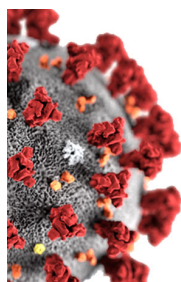
NCDHHS is reporting the first case of monkeypox virus infection in a North Carolina resident, identified by testing at the State Laboratory of Public Health. Monkeypox is a rare but potentially serious, viral illness that typically involves flu-like symptoms, swelling of the lymph nodes and a rash that includes bumps that are initially filled with fluid before scabbing over. Illness could be confused with a sexually transmitted infection like syphilis or herpes, or with varicella zoster virus (chickenpox). Most infections last two to four weeks.

NCDHHS is working closely with the CDC, relevant local health departments and the patient's health care providers to identify and notify individuals who may have been in contact with the patient while they were infectious. Monkeypox is typically spread by skin-to-skin contact. The person is currently isolating at home. No further information will be shared about this case to protect the patient's privacy.

Monkeypox is transmitted person to person through direct skin-to-skin contact, having contact with an infectious rash, through body fluids or through respiratory secretions. Such contact often occurs during prolonged, face-to-face contact or during intimate physical contact, such as kissing, cuddling or sex. While anyone can get monkeypox, in the current outbreak, many of the cases are in men who have sex with men.

People can take basic steps to prevent the spread of monkeypox. If you have an unexplained rash, sores or other symptoms, see your health care provider — if you don't have a provider or health insurance, visit a public health clinic near you. Keep the rash covered and avoid sex or being intimate with anyone until you have been checked out. Standard household cleaners and detergents are effective at cleaning environmental surfaces and linens.

COVID-19 Updates



COVID-19 INFORMATION AND UPDATES

The [DHHS COVID-19 Dashboard](#), which is updated weekly every Wednesday, shows the following data points:

- Wastewater testing has shown an **increase** to 19.1m particles from 18.4m particles.
- COVID-like illness in hospital emergency departments **dropped** from 5% to 4%.
- COVID-19 reported cases for the week **decreased** to 21,803 from 23,787.

- COVID-19 hospital admissions of COVID-19 patients this week **decreased** to 839, compared to last week which was at 887.
- Booster rates are 57% for the total population. We have 77% of adults with at least one dose and 38% of children and teens ages 5-17 with at least one dose.
- The Omicron variant continues to represent the vast majority of COVID diagnoses.

Additionally, **children ages 6 months and older can now receive a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine**. The CDC recommends all children who are eligible receive a COVID-19 vaccine. Children ages 6 months to younger than 5 get a smaller vaccine dose than any other age group. This vaccine dose differs from the vaccine that was previously authorized for children ages 5 to 11. Booster shots are currently not authorized for children in this age group.

Everyone ages 6 months and older can receive a free COVID-19 vaccine, even if they don't have health insurance and regardless of their immigration status. Parents and guardians with questions about COVID-19 vaccines should talk with their child's physician.

For more information about how vaccines for children work and where you can find a vaccination appointment nearby, visit [MySpot.nc.gov](https://www.myspot.nc.gov). The North Carolina COVID-19 Vaccine Help Center can also help you make an appointment by calling **888-675-4567**. The help center is open 7 a.m.-7 p.m. on weekdays and 8 a.m.-4 p.m. on weekends.

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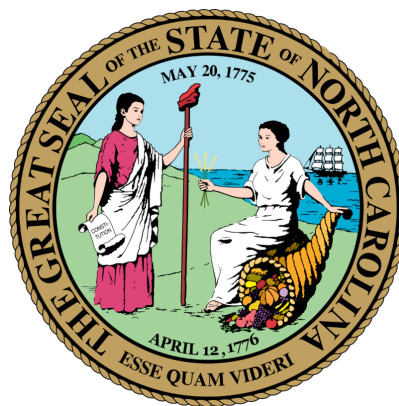
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How can we help you? Let us know and [reach out](#) to our office! We want to hear from you.

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