

## For Immediate Release



**From** Sen. Joyce Waddell <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>  
**To** <sjohnston@tuesdayforumcharlotte.org>  
**Reply-To** <joyce.waddell@ncleg.gov>  
**Date** 2024-07-17 11:44



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

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

July 15, 2024  
Chapter V  
Volume 28

**CONTACT: Senator Joyce Waddell**  
**(919) 733-5650**  
**Joyce.Waddell@ncleg.gov**



**Greetings:**

At the General Assembly  
***For the Week***

*During the adjournment, I have been participating in events and activities in within the district, and although I am in the district, my office is open.*

*Joyce Waddell*



***District Activities***

*Senator Waddell shared upcoming legislation with former United States Attorney General, Eric Holder.*

## Teacher Requirements Update

A recommendation from the State Board of Education suggests eliminating a skills test previously required for most prospective teachers. This decision, made on Thursday, aims to address the increasing teacher turnover by encouraging more individuals to enter the teaching profession. Officials from the Department of Public Instruction highlighted that passing this test did not correlate with higher teaching quality metrics.

Currently, only college students entering educator preparation programs are required to take these tests, specifically the Praxis Core exams. Individuals pursuing teaching through non-education degrees—a rapidly growing group now comprising over a third of new teachers—do not need to take these exams.

State law mandates the skills test as a filter for teaching candidates perceived as less prepared for the profession. However, leaders from the Department of Public Instruction found no significant performance differences between teachers who passed the exam and those who didn't take it. Both groups were equally likely to satisfy their supervisors, perform well in evaluations, and meet or exceed test score growth expectations.

## Medicaid Expansion

More than 500,000 North Carolina residents have enrolled in the state's Medicaid expansion program since its launch seven months ago, officials announced Friday. The Governor, alongside North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services Secretary and two healthcare professionals, held a news conference to highlight this enrollment milestone. The original goal was to enroll 600,000 people in the Medicaid expansion over two years.

As of Friday morning, the number of enrollees stood at 503,967, according to the governor's office.

The plan to expand eligibility received bipartisan support from state legislators last year and began on December 1. Nearly 300,000 people signed up within the first few weeks of the program. Under the 2010 Affordable Care Act, the federal government covers 90% of the cost.

It has been reported that nearly 2 million prescriptions have been filled for new Medicaid enrollees, treating chronic conditions such as seizures and heart diseases. The expansion has also led to an increase in dental service claims under Medicaid.

I am excited to see the program expanding. The expansion will provide many the opportunity of being covered by insurance.

## 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. The 2022 Short Session began on Wednesday, May 18th at 12:00 noon.

*You can view bills in full by visiting [www.ncleg.gov](http://www.ncleg.gov).*



Sen. Joyce Waddell, District 40 | 1113 Legislative Building | Raleigh, NC 27601 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!