

**CCDP Weekly News Digest
December 19, 2022**

Editor's Note: We will not publish on Monday, December 26 and Monday, January 2. We'll return on Monday, January 9. Happy Holidays to all!

News from the North Carolina Democratic Party

This week's news release:

Despite North Carolina Republicans in Congress Voting Against It, Biden to Sign Marriage Equality Bill

Today, despite all North Carolina Republicans in the U.S. House voting against the Respect for Marriage Act, President Joe Biden will sign the landmark marriage equality bill into law, enshrining marriage equality protections for Americans.

The eight North Carolina Republicans were among the 169 GOP representatives and 36 GOP senators who voted against the Respect for Marriage Act – despite [more than 70% of Americans](#) supporting same sex-marriage, including a majority of Republicans.

“While President Biden and Democrats are enshrining into law Americans’ freedom to marry who they love, the fact that the majority of Republicans in Congress – including eight of Republicans from North Carolina – refused to support these protections for marriage equality is yet another reminder of just how out of touch and extreme Republicans’ MAGA agenda is,” said NCDP Chair Bobbie Richardson.

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News from NC House Democratic Leader Robert Reives' Office

The North Carolina General Assembly has finished its business for 2022. We will return next month to begin the new biennium, 2023-24.

I was chosen by my Democratic colleagues last week to continue serving as the House Democratic Leader for the two-year session about to begin. I spoke with the Chatham News + Record this week on my priorities for the upcoming two years, both as your representative and as leader of the Democratic caucus.

Finally, with the current Session coming to a close, next year the constituents I represent will be somewhat different. The current 54th District includes all of Chatham County and small parts of Durham County. Moving forward, I will continue to represent all of Chatham County and two precincts of Randolph County: Liberty and Staley. It has been my honor to represent Durham County in the General Assembly and I look forward to being a voice for the residents of Randolph County now, too.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Reives II

News from NC Attorney General Josh Stein

Consumer Alert

Scammers Look to Take Advantage of Student Loan Changes

As the student loan landscape continues to evolve, including the recent announcement extending the payment pause, borrowers face shifting deadlines, confusion, and uncertainty. But be careful: these challenges could represent an early holiday gift to scammers looking to trick borrowers into handing over their money or personal information.

Borrowers should be especially alert and take steps to protect their finances. Follow these tips to protect yourself from student loan scams:

- **Never pay upfront fees** to access help with your debt. Free assistance is available through your federal loan servicer. You can find out who services your loans on your [Federal Student Aid](#) account.
- **Don't trust anyone pressuring you to decide quickly** or if they promise instant debt relief. No company can help you speed up the federal government's student loan relief process, and legitimate companies will not use aggressive tactics to pressure you into a contract.
- **Be skeptical of anyone who contacts you and claims to represent the Department of Education or your loan servicer.** Never give any personal or financial information to someone who contacts you if you aren't sure of their authenticity. If you have any concerns, contact the [Department of Education](#) or your loan servicer directly.

For more information, visit our website at [ncdoj.gov/studentloanscams](#). If you believe that you have been the victim of a scam, contact our office's Consumer Protection Division at <https://ncdoj.gov/file-a-complaint> or 1-877-5-NO-SCAM.

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Selected News and Opinion Stories of Note

[The Assembly NC](#): North Carolina's Not-Quite-Dead Death Penalty

[Talking Points Memo.com](#): Mark Meadows Exchanged Texts With 34 Members of Congress About Plans To Overturn the 2020 Election

[Truthout.org](#): Right-Wing Groups Have Funneled \$90M of Dark Money to 'Moore v. Harper' Backers

[Truthout.org](#): The Right Has Expanded Its Dark Money Strategy for Dominating School Boards

[Common Dreams.org](#): Progressive Lawmakers Demand Fraud Probe Into Medicare Privatization Scheme

[Chatham News + Record](#): VinFast, Wolfspeed Projects Hitting Timelines

[Chatham News + Record](#): A New Movement for the Haw?

[The Assembly NC](#): A Rural Doctor and the Fight Against COVID

[Wfdd.org](#): Reives Picked by House Democrats To Stay Minority Leader

[Chatham News + Record](#): Reives on Leadership Role, Moving NC Forward

[Chatham News + Record](#): Pittsboro Extending Search for Town Manager