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CONTACT: Nicole Price  
Phone: (202) 716-5353  
Email: [Nicole.Price@ncae.org](mailto:Nicole.Price@ncae.org)

### **North Carolina Educators Endorse Slate of Legislative Candidates for the North Carolina Senate**

**RALEIGH, N.C.** – The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), the state’s largest education advocacy organization for public school employees, has unveiled its list of legislative endorsements for the North Carolina Senate for the 2022 midterm election. The issues on the ballot this November extend far beyond public education, to health care, infrastructure, voting rights, and other issues that have a history of being used to undermine, destroy, and divide the power of poor and working-class people.

NCAE is committed to electing candidates who share our belief that North Carolina’s children should have the freedom to pursue their dreams and are committed to equipping every teacher with the resources and professional development needed to deliver the quality education that prepares every child with the skills needed to succeed in the future, no matter their color, background or zip code.

“These candidates have a passion and commitment to support the students and educators of our state,” said NCAE President Tamika Walker Kelly. “We are proud to endorse them because we know they will not only strengthen our education system, but they will work diligently to ensure every citizen in North Carolina has a voice.”

**Sen. Sydney Batch**, an attorney and social worker by trade and running for re-election in SD 17, knows firsthand the uphill battle faced by her party in the State Senate following the November election, but believes that fighting for policies that uplift all North Carolina residents, not just a privileged few, is work of the highest priority.

NCAE is also targeting races for several first-time Senate candidates with the endorsements of **Valerie Jordan** (SD 3), **Marcia Morgan** (SD 7), and **Mary Wills Bode** (SD 18). NCAE will be mobilizing members and working with partner organizations in support of these candidates with phone banks and door knocks to get teachers, school bus drivers, school administrators, and all NCAE members out to vote for students and the schools they deserve.

“I am proud to receive NCAE’s endorsement again,” said Sen. Sydney Batch, candidate for Senate District 17. “I have always fought to get better pay and bring more resources to our public schools. While we still have a lot of work to do, I’m grateful to educators for putting their faith in me to improve our public schools. I look forward to our continued partnership together.”

“As a product of my district’s public schools, I know firsthand the challenges and the brilliance in our rural schools,” said Valerie Jordan, candidate for Senate District 3. “I am proud to work alongside community members for better education funding. Our students deserve the best.”

Marcia Morgan, candidate for Senate District 7, commented, "As a former public school teacher, I have some understanding of the challenges facing teachers in the classroom today. I'm so thankful to have NCAE's endorsement -- they know they can count on me to serve them in Raleigh, just as they serve our students every day.”

“My mother, who helped start the Smart Start Program in North Carolina, instilled in me the importance of public education,” said Mary Wills Bode, candidate for Senate District 18. “This endorsement means a lot to me and I look forward to working with our educators.”

NCAE is proud to support each of the following candidates for the North Carolina Senate:

**Valerie Jordan** - Senate 03 (BERTIE, CAMDEN, CURRITUCK, GATES, HALIFAX, HERTFORD, MARTIN, NORTHAMPTON, TYRRELL, WARREN)

**Milton F. (Toby) Fitch** - Senate 04 (GREENE, WAYNE, WILSON)

**Kandie D. Smith** - Senate 05 (EDGECOMBE, PITT)

**Marcia Morgan** – Senate 07 (NEW HANOVER)

**Mark Speed** - Senate 11 (FRANKLIN, NASH, VANCE)

**Lisa Grafstein** - Senate 13 (WAKE)

**Dan Blue** - Senate 14 (WAKE)

**Jay J. Chaudhuri** - Senate 15 (WAKE)

**Gale Adcock** - Senate 16 (WAKE)

**Sydney Batch** - Senate 17 (WAKE)

**Mary Wills Bode** - Senate 18 (GRANVILLE, WAKE)

**Val Applewhite** - Senate 19 (CUMBERLAND)

**Natalie S. Murdock** - Senate 20 (CHATHAM, DURHAM)

**Frank McNeill** - Senate 21 (CUMBERLAND, MOORE)

**Mike Woodard** - Senate 22 (DURHAM)

**Graig R. Meyer** - Senate 23 (CASWELL, ORANGE, PERSON)

**Danny Earl Britt Jr.** - Senate 24 (HOKE, ROBESON, SCOTLAND)

**Sean C. Ewing** - Senate 25 (ALAMANCE, RANDOLPH)

**Michael Garrett** - Senate 27 (GUILFORD)

**Gladys A. Robinson** - Senate 28 (GUILFORD)

**Paul Lowe Jr.** - Senate 32 (FORSYTH)

**Tangela (Lucy Horne) Morgan** - Senate 33 (ROWAN, STANLY)

**Keshia Sandidge** - Senate 34 (CABARRUS)

**Mujtaba A. Mohammed** - Senate 38 (MECKLENBURG)

**DeAndrea Salvador** - Senate 39 (MECKLENBURG)

**Joyce Waddell** - Senate 40 (MECKLENBURG)

**Natasha Marcus** - Senate 41 (MECKLENBURG)

**Rachel Hunt** - Senate 42 (MECKLENBURG)

**Dean Proctor** - Senate 45 (CALDWELL, CATAWBA)

**Stephanie A. Justice** - Senate 48 (HENDERSON, POLK, RUTHERFORD)

**Julie Mayfield** - Senate 49 (BUNCOMBE)

**Karen Burnette McCracken** - Senate 50 (CHEROKEE, CLAY, GRAHAM, HAYWOOD, JACKSON, MACON, SWAIN, TRANSYLVANIA)

The North Carolina Association of Educators (NCAE), is the state's largest education advocacy organization for public school employees and represents active, retired, and student members.

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