

United Way
of North Carolina



ADVOCATE



MAY 2018 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE



The General Assembly's 2018 session began on May 16

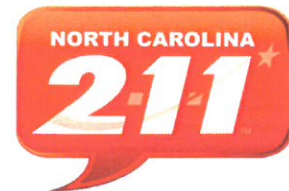
with lawmakers greeted by thousands of schoolteachers and their supporters rallying for higher teacher pay and increased investments in public education. Inside the legislative buildings, lawmakers from both the Senate and the House were working on revisions to the FY2018-2018 budget.

Legislative leaders announced the \$23.92 billion spending plan late Monday night. It is being moved through the General Assembly in an expedited process that is not likely to allow for changes. The good news is the budget does include \$250,000 in state funding for NC 2-1-1, and we do not expect that to change. Thanks to all of you who participated in the grassroots work to build support for 2-1-1 with legislators.

Stay tuned for further news about the budget in the coming days. We could see floor votes as early as this week. The legislative leadership's current plan is to send the approved budget to Gov. Cooper by mid-June. The session is expected to end on or before July 1, when the new fiscal year begins.

United Way Jones Street Day.....

Your presence at United Way Jones Street Day is instrumental in raising our collective voice to reiterate the importance of NC 2-1-1, share how you are addressing local needs aligned with the Self-Sufficiency Standard, and build stronger relationships with elected officials.



United Way Jones Street Day
Tuesday, June 5
General Assembly - Raleigh, NC
8:15AM-4:00PM

SCHEDULE:

8:15am *Breakfast and Briefing
9:00am Visits begin at General Assembly
Noon ***Lunch and Guest Speaker: Dr. Elizabeth Tilson
North Carolina's State Health Director and Chief
Medical Officer for the NC Department of
Health & Human Services**

2:00pm Afternoon Visits at General Assembly
4:00pm Day concludes

***Breakfast and Briefing/Lunch Location:
NC Museum of Natural Sciences
11 West Jones Street
Raleigh, NC 27601**

DIRECTIONS TO GENERAL ASSEMBLY, PARKING AND HOTEL OPTIONS

****Attend Webinar - June 1 @ 11:00AM to review Jones Street Day logistics, your specific community packet and dialogue on expectations.***

Charitable Tax Deduction.....



It is estimated that the changes in the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act will lead to a significant decline in individual charitable contributions. Due to the increase in standard deduction, 21 million taxpayers who currently itemize their taxes and claim the charitable deduction will no longer have access to this tax incentive. In North Carolina, that means 5% less to fund private food banks, homeless or domestic violence shelters, - provide day care or job training. United Ways have tight budgets and lost dollars translate directly to reduced services for North Carolina communities.

Two members of the U.S. House of Representatives have introduced a bipartisan bill (H.R. 5771) to enable all taxpayers to deduct charitable donations from their taxes, regardless of whether they itemize. North Carolina Representative Mark Walker is championing the Universal Charitable giving Bill (H.R. 3988). This bill establishes an universal charitable deduction for individuals and married couples who do not itemize, in addition to the standard deduction. This would be an above-the-line deduction up to one-third of the standard deduction - about \$2,100 for individuals and \$4,200 for married couples.

This bill is focused on helping charities, and the lower and middle class. In fiscal year 2017, roughly 71% of the tax expenditures for charitable giving will be claimed by taxpayers who earn \$200,000 a year or more. By broadening the base of people who can deduct charitable donations, this bill aims to empower lower and middle income earners to direct funds willingly to socially productive organizations they wish to support.

SNAP in the Farm Bill.....

UWW reports that the House of Representatives' version of the Farm Bill could propose dramatic changes to SNAP that cause millions of people to lose access to critical nutrition and income support. Changes are likely to focus on curbing eligibility and limited state flexibility.



The Senate Agriculture Committee is also planning to release their version of the Farm Bill and is currently working in a bipartisan manner to craft the bill. While significant changes to SNAP are not expected in the Senate, **advocacy to keep support for SNAP strong and to prevent erosion to the program will be important.**

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