

# North Carolina Legislator Profile

## Debra Conrad: House District 74 Forsyth County

**“I was a Tea Party person before there was a Tea Party” –Rep. Debra Conrad (*Winston-Salem Journal*, 10/13/10)**

In the next installment of Real Facts NC’s legislator profile series, we examine Representative Debra Conrad of Forsyth County. Conrad joined the NC House in 2012 after serving 18 years as a Forsyth County Commissioner.

Conrad used her Tea Party mentality to defend cuts to schools in Forsyth County long before Republicans in the General Assembly were doing the same. When she joined the NC House in 2012, she was just in time to support education overhaul that continues to hurt teachers and students across the state.

### **Summary**

**Conrad claimed her top priority was to “improve public schools” and said she supported an increase in funding for education, but her record says otherwise.**

- Conrad spent her time on the Forsyth County Commission bullying the school board over education funding cuts, in the legislature she sponsored legislation to ban school boards from suing their county commissioners over funding
- Conrad failed to adequately pay teachers in Forsyth County during her 18 years as a Commissioner and carried that mentality to the NC House, supporting merit pay and ending teacher tenure.

**Conrad was a “Tea Party person before there was a Tea Party” who’s living political hero is Paul Ryan**

- Conrad supported aggressive budget cuts including eliminating raises for Forsyth County employees and voted against a county budget that decreased taxes, saying it did not cut deep enough
- Conrad voted against funding for schools, libraries, and health care during her 18 years as a Forsyth County Commissioner

**Conrad is anti-abortion and sponsored a bill to allow health care workers to refuse to take part in an abortion and employers to opt out of health insurance covering contraception.**

- Conrad voted for budgets that allocated millions to pseudoscience crisis pregnancy centers after voting to defund Planned Parenthood
- Conrad supported tight regulations that restrict abortion including a mandatory 72-hour waiting period, required ultrasound reporting, and strict rules for clinics.
- Conrad voted for a bill requiring 7th Grade Health curriculum to teach abortion as “risk for” miscarriages or premature births

Rep. Debra Conrad



House District 74



**Conrad claimed her top priority was to “improve public schools” and said she supported an increase in funding for education, but her record says otherwise.**

**In 2016 Conrad said her top priority if re-elected would be to build on the “success of our tax and regulatory reforms” and “continue to improve public schools.”** “What would be your top priority if re-elected? I want to build on the success of our tax and regulatory reforms. North Carolina has moved from 44th to 11th in the nation for best tax climate and rated one of the best states in which to do business. Economic development and conservative fiscal management of budgets has always been my top issue. Another priority is to continue to improve public schools combined with educational freedom for parents. Republicans have raised the average teacher salary by 15 percent over the past three years and increased K-12 spending by \$2 billion since 2010 which was the year Republicans took over the legislature.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/28/16)

**In 2014 Conrad supported increasing education spending in NC.** “Q: Would you increase funding for K-12 education in North Carolina? If yes, where would increases go? If no, why not? Answer: As the revenue picture improves in North Carolina, funding should be increased. Voters need to know total education funding is already 56 percent of the state budget and that the 8.1 billion in state dollars for K-12 ranks 8th in the nation. Additional funds should be targeted where it helps the students educational outcomes the most in the classroom setting. Children are our future and I have two grandchildren headed to public school soon.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/20/14)

**Conrad looked to Forsyth County Schools for budget cuts, “you can’t cut without cutting out of the school system.”** “Conrad believes that when the economy improves, the county will be better able to afford adding the new debt service to the tax rate. Conrad talks about trying to renegotiate with Dell Inc. to lower incentive payments, and looking at the schools for cuts. “You can’t cut without cutting out of the school system,” she said.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 5/24/09)

**Conrad spent her time on the Forsyth County Commission bullying the school board over education funding cuts, in the legislature she sponsored legislation to ban school boards from suing their county commissioners over funding**

**Conrad co-sponsored legislation to ban school boards from suing their county commissioners over funding.** “An N.C. House committee voted Wednesday to ban school boards from suing their county commissioners over funding disputes. The bill's sponsors say the change is needed to avoid costly lawsuits when school boards are seeking a bigger budget than county leaders are willing to provide. “I’ve found that cooperation works a lot better than intimidation,” said Rep. Larry Potts, a Lexington Republican and former county commissioner who's sponsoring the proposal. Potts' co-sponsor, Republican Rep. Debra Conrad of Winston-Salem, said that funding disputes arise because county commissioners have to balance the needs of a variety of county services, while school board members are focusing solely on education.” (News & Observer, 4/19/17)

**Conrad tried to strip NC school systems of their ability to go to court to get more money.** “Under HB 305, the decision of the commissioners would be declared final if mediation doesn't result in an agreement between both local boards. The primary sponsors of the measure are Reps. Debra Conrad of Winston-Salem, Larry Potts of Lexington, Carl Ford of China Grove and Michael Wray of Gaston. All the sponsors except Wray are Republicans.” (News & Observer, 3/9/17)

**Conrad rejected a \$223.7 million school bond while on the Forsyth County Commission.** “Faced with a policy that limits county debt to no more than 15 percent of expenses, Forsyth County commissioners said “no” on Thursday to the idea of a \$223.7 million school bond referendum this fall. Although the board took no formal action, board Chairman Richard Linville took a straw poll and found no commissioner on the seven-member board willing to raise his hand in support of a bond vote. Even commissioners who don't support the debt limit, and who would be willing to vote for school bonds if the

limit was not in place, said that the schools' request is impossible to grant." (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/22/12)

**Conrad said the Forsyth County School Board was "totally on another planet" for asking for a school bond.** "Board Chairman Donny Lambeth and Commissioner Debra Conrad have traded barbs over the initial school bond proposal. Lambeth said the commissioners were "out of touch with reality" when they rejected the school bond package. Conrad said the school board was "totally on another planet" for even asking the commissioners to put school bond package on the ballot amid a tough local economy." (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/27/12)

**Conrad on denying the school board more funds: "I like the planet I am on."** "School board chairman Donny Lambeth said the commissioners were out of touch with reality, and that "I'm not sure what planet they are on." But Commissioner Debra Conrad said, "I like the planet I am on -- it is the planet of common sense and sanity." Commissioners should have talked more about this crucial issue with school board members. But whatever planet any of the participants may be on -- the planet of common sense or of hope for the future -- they'll have to work together within reasonable limitations." (Winston-Salem Journal, editorial, 6/28/12)

**In 2011, Conrad supported Forsyth's budget that gave education \$300,000 less than the current year.** "Forsyth County Commissioners on Thursday approved the 2011-12 budget with a 5-2 vote but postponed a decision on building or renovating the Central Library and libraries in Clemmons and Kernersville. Also, some commissioners defended their funding for the Winston-Salem/Forsyth County school system, deflecting criticism that their appropriation -- \$300,000 less than in the current fiscal year -- could result in teacher layoffs. The split on the budget was unchanged from last week. Commissioners Debra Conrad, Walter Marshall, Dave Plyler, Everette Witherspoon and Richard Linville, the board chairman, voted to approve the budget." (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/3/11)

**Conrad: "I think we've lost all understanding of student personal responsibility," blamed inadequate funding for schools on students** "Commissioner Debra Conrad-Shrader said she wanted to counterbalance Marshall. "I think we've lost all understanding of student personal responsibility," she said, drawing nods from school-board members Vic Johnson, Donny Lambeth and Jeannie Metcalf. Lost in the exchange was the district's budget request, which asks the county for about 4.7 percent more than this year's contribution of \$86.9 million. County officials had asked the district to limit its request to 3.5 percent more than last year, or an additional \$3.1 million. Commissioners gave no sign yesterday that they would be willing to give more. The county faces a \$15 million budget gap, Conrad-Shrader said. Martin said that the schools' needs are growing faster than the county's tax base, but Conrad-Shrader pointed out that other county departments have the same problem as well. "We've seen the same thing in social services," she said." (Winston-Salem Journal, 5/14/04)

**Conrad failed to adequately pay teachers in Forsyth County during her 18 years as a Commissioner and carried that mentality to the NC House, supporting merit pay and ending teacher tenure.**

- **NOTE:** *Conrad voted for the 2017 Republican budget that gives beginning teachers no raise, and only a 0.6% raise to experienced teachers. (S257, House adopted conference report, [6/22/17](#); House veto override, [6/28/17](#))*

**Starting teacher pay remains at \$35,000 under the 2017 Republican budget.** "Under the teacher pay plan, teachers with 17 to 24 years of experience would see some of the biggest raises. Starting teacher pay would remain at \$35,000, but teachers at most experience levels would get a raise." (News & Observer, [7/1/17](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

**Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, will only see an increase of \$30 a month, merely a tank of gas.** "The newly unveiled North Carolina state budget does include increases in teacher pay,

but they are neither big nor dramatic. Many educators – including veterans who have devoted 25 years or more to our state’s children – will see an increase of \$30 a month. That amounts to little more than a tank of gas, which will hardly be enough to allow teachers to quit their second or third jobs.” (Charlotte Observer, Op-Ed, [6/21/17](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

**Conrad called for cuts in local education funding as a commissioner, supported Sen. Berger’s plan to overhaul education, ending teacher tenure.** “As commissioner, Conrad has called for cuts in local education funding. Throwing more money into education won’t solve the problems of young people graduating without the necessary skills to compete in the global economy, Conrad said. She said she supports Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger’s plan to overhaul the education system. That plan would, among other things, limit teachers to a one-year contract, ending tenure, and hold children back in the third grade if they can’t read at grade level.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/7/12)

**Conrad said that parents need to decide education is a priority, the government cannot throw money at the issue.** “Conrad: Said parents have to decide education is a priority for their children and that government cannot simply throw money at the issue. She said she might support merit pay for teachers, with student test scores as part of salary formula, but that would have to be one of many elements in the formula.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 4/15/12)

**Conrad said the Forsyth school board should find money for teacher salary supplements in its own budget, shouldn’t come back to the county.** “The commissioners will have to vote on the issue if general-fund money is found for teacher- salary supplements, and such a vote is likely to be divisive. Several commissioners said yesterday that they would support the move. But Commissioner Debra Conrad, the vice chairwoman of the board, said that it is up to the school board to find the money for salary supplements in its own budget. “I don’t necessarily think it’s appropriate that it comes back and is placed on the county,” she said. “I feel we were very generous and gave them as much as possible.” Superintendent Don Martin said after the meeting that it is up to the commissioners to decide how to pay for county needs, including the schools.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 11/16/07)

**Conrad was a “Tea Party person before there was a Tea Party” who’s living political hero is Paul Ryan**

**Conrad said of her record on the Forsyth County commission, “I was a Tea Party person before there was a Tea Party”** “She’s stressing her record both in recruiting business and in being a conservative watchdog on county spending. “I was a Tea Party person before there was a Tea Party,” Conrad said. “The main thing I am hearing is that people are worried about how much government is spending and the amount of debt we are going to be saddled with in the future.” Republicans make up 41 percent of District B’s 160,000 voters. Democrats comprise 37 percent and independents make up 22 percent.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/13/10)

- **Conrad was endorsed by the NC Tea Party in the 2010 election for Forsyth County Board of Commissioners.** (NC Tea Party, [10/26/10](#))
- **Conrad attended a Tea Party rally in Winston-Salem, encouraged the crowd to attend public hearing over property taxes.** “Benson and other fiscal conservatives organized the Winston-Salem rally. He stressed that organizers intended for the protest to be bipartisan, though none of the speakers was a Democrat. The Winston-Salem protest was paid for by local organizers, Benson said. Debra Conrad, a Republican and the vice chairwoman of the Forsyth County Board of Commissioners, railed against higher local taxes and encouraged the crowd to attend a coming public hearing about county property-tax rates. “Your voices count,” she told the protestors, who answered with cheers. “We need to hear you.”” (Winston-Salem Journal, 4/16/09)

**In 2012, Conrad's "living political hero" was Paul Ryan.** "Candidate Q&A Who is your living political hero? Paul Ryan, the Republican nominee for vice president." (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/7/12)

**Conrad joined the legislature with the "same political philosophy" she had in Forsyth County, prioritizing tax cuts over education and helping middle class families**

**Conrad joined the legislature "with the same political philosophy" she had "back in Forsyth County."** "All of the state House members who live in Forsyth are newcomers, so they have to sit near the rear. They are Republicans Debra Conrad and Donny Lambeth, and Democrats Ed Hanes and Evelyn Terry. Forsyth does have a veteran in Rep. Julia Howard, R-Davie, whose district includes western Forsyth. She gets to sit right up front. Conrad said she's finding out that being a representative is a job that's lasting 12 to 14 hours a day. 'It is a lot to learn,' Conrad said. 'You do a lot of walking, and I've already lost eight pounds.' Conrad said she plans to focus on the goals of limiting government and improving the state's business climate. 'I'm here with the same political philosophy I had back in Forsyth County,' Conrad said." (Winston-Salem Journal, 1/31/13)

**In 2013, Conrad introduced a bill to cut the state's corporate income tax.** "Four North Carolina House Republicans, including Forsyth Rep. Debra Conrad, introduced House Bill 642, which would make the state's corporate income tax the lowest in the Southeast for large companies. [...] The House bill would reduce the state's corporate income tax rate from 6.9 percent to 4.9 percent, dropping it from the highest to the lowest in the Southeast. The law, if passed, would be made retroactive to Jan. 1. The House bill reduces the corporate income tax rate quicker and further than Senate Bill 677, which reduces it to 6.5 percent in January 2014, 6.25 percent in January 2015 and 6 percent after 2015. Sen. Andrew Brock, R-Davie, is a cosponsor." (Winston-Salem Journal, 4/20/13)

**Conrad was in "complete agreement" with a 2013 bill that would cost NC half the 2013 federal unemployment benefits.** "Under the proposed bill, the maximum weekly state benefit for workers after July 1 would fall from \$535 to \$350, while the average benefit would drop from \$290 to \$264 a week. The maximum number of weeks a jobless claimant could receive state benefits would drop from 26 weeks to 20 during times of high unemployment, and as few as six weeks at times of 'full employment,' defined by economists as a 5 percent jobless rate. The state unemployment rate was 9.2 percent in December, down from 10.4 percent a year ago. Bill supporters, including Howard, say the benefit reduction is necessary to put North Carolina more in line with what neighboring states provide. Rep. Debra Conrad, R-Forsyth, said she is in 'complete agreement with the bill as written in every detail.' Other Forsyth legislative delegation members could not be reached for comment." (Winston-Salem Journal, 1/25/13)

**Conrad said her top priority if re-elected in 2016 would be to build on the "success of our tax and regulatory reforms" and "continue to improve public schools."** "What would be your top priority if re-elected? I want to build on the success of our tax and regulatory reforms. North Carolina has moved from 44th to 11th in the nation for best tax climate and rated one of the best states in which to do business. Economic development and conservative fiscal management of budgets has always been my top issue. Another priority is to continue to improve public schools combined with educational freedom for parents. Republicans have raised the average teacher salary by 15 percent over the past three years and increased K-12 spending by \$2 billion since 2010 which was the year Republicans took over the legislature." (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/28/16)

**Conrad did not support a minimum wage increase because minimum wage jobs are "an initial job to work up the ladder in the American way."** "Q: Would you support an increase to the state's minimum wage? Why or why not? Answer: No. Minimum wage is not supposed to be a permanent way of life, but an initial job to work up the employment ladder in the American way. I believe that raising the minimum wage would have a negative impact on job creation. We need to encourage and offer educational opportunities, apprenticeships and workforce development programs to help individuals improve their employment opportunities and increase their paychecks." (Winston-Salem Journal, 10/20/14)

**Conrad voted against funding for schools, libraries, and health care during her 18 years as a Forsyth County Commissioner**

**Conrad voted against a \$40 million bond referendum to improve Forsyth's library and build a new library.** "The Forsyth County Board of Commissioners voted 4-3 last night to pursue a \$40 million bond referendum intended to provide the county with a new central library and other library improvements. Although the commissioners must still hold a public hearing before taking the vote that actually puts the referendum on the ballot, last night's vote signaled that the board intends to move forward with a referendum, and that commissioners are badly divided. [...] Three of the board's Republicans, Debra Conrad, Richard Linville and Gloria Whisenhunt, were opposed to going forward with the bond vote." (Winston-Salem Journal, 8/10/10)

**Forsyth Commissioners rejected a \$223.7 million school bond due to a policy pushed by Conrad that created a 15 percent debt cap for the county.** "Faced with a policy that limits county debt to no more than 15 percent of expenses, Forsyth County commissioners said "no" on Thursday to the idea of a \$223.7 million school bond referendum this fall. Although the board took no formal action, board Chairman Richard Linville took a straw poll and found no commissioner on the seven-member board willing to raise his hand in support of a bond vote. Even commissioners who don't support the debt limit, and who would be willing to vote for school bonds if the limit was not in place, said that the schools' request is impossible to grant. "I'm still in favor of a bond for the schools, but the policy says that we can't go above our 15 percent debt limit," said Commissioner Walter Marshall, who opposed the debt limit policy when it was enacted by the majority in September 2011. Commissioner Debra Conrad, who led the effort to put in the 15 percent debt cap, said school board members are clearly not thinking along the same lines as the county." (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/22/12)

**Conrad was the lone no vote against Forsyth's 2007 budget due to a 3-cent property tax increase dedicated to paying off school bonds approved by voters.** "Forsyth County commissioners approved their 2007-08 budget yesterday, and Vice Chairwoman Debra Conrad, who cast the only dissenting vote, paid for it. Conrad refused to sign onto the \$387 million spending plan because it included a 3-cent increase in the property-tax rate. That money will be dedicated to paying off \$275 million in school bonds that voters approved last year. After she voted against the tax increase, which was approved 6-1, the commissioners stripped funding for some of Conrad's pet projects from the proposed budget, including a grant for the Greater Winston-Salem Chamber of Commerce to promote nanotechnology and money for a lobbying firm. Commissioners also cut financing for the Piedmont Triad Film Commission from \$50,000 to \$25,000. The commissioners then approved the budget, also on a 6-1 vote. Conrad said she knew that some projects she supported would likely be removed if she did not vote for the tax plan, but she decided to vote against it anyway. "To me that's selling your soul. I hate to sell my vote. I have to sleep at night," she said." (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/1/07)

**Conrad voted against a Forsyth budget that gave \$1.5 million back to the Downtown Health Plaza that provides care for people with low-income or no insurance.** "Forsyth County property taxes are going up under the \$317.4 million county budget adopted yesterday by a closely divided board of commissioners. The budget restores \$1.5 million to the Downtown Health Plaza, which had been a divisive issue for the board. The tax rate for the 2004-05 budget year will increase to 70.8 cents for every \$100 of assessed property valuation, a 2.3 percent increase. The current rate is 69.2 cents. A resident owning a \$100,000 home will pay \$708 in county property taxes. That does not include fire-district taxes for residents living in unincorporated areas or municipal property taxes. The board approved the budget 4-3. Commissioners Debra Conrad-Shrader, Richard Linville and Gloria Whisenhunt voted against it, decrying the tax increase." (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/18/04)

**Conrad wanted to cut county funds for the Downtown Health Plaza, claiming Baptist Hospital had enough money to pay for it, said Forsyth does enough for the poor with Medicaid.** "But Whisenhunt and Debra Conrad-Shrader, the vice chairwoman of the commissioners, were not

convinced. They have strongly opposed continued money for the health plaza. They say that Baptist Hospital is a nonprofit organization that is largely tax-exempt and has enough income to pay for the health plaza without county tax dollars. They also say that the county is not mandated to spend money on the health plaza and already does plenty for the poor by putting tax dollars into Medicaid. Counties in North Carolina must pay a share of Medicaid costs.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 5/24/05)

**Conrad supported aggressive budget cuts including eliminating raises for Forsyth County employees and voted against a county budget that decreased taxes, saying it did not cut deep enough**

**Conrad voted against the 2005 Forsyth County budget that decreased taxes, saying the budget did not deep cut enough.** “Forsyth County commissioners voted 5-2 yesterday afternoon to adopt a \$339.4 million county budget that sets the property-tax rate at 66.6 cents for every \$100 of assessed value. The tax rate went down because of revaluation. Under the 66.6-cent tax rate, the owner of a \$171,300 house will pay \$1,141 in property taxes, excluding city or fire-district taxes. Under the budget proposed by County Manager Graham Pervier, that homeowner would have paid \$1,160 in county taxes. Before revaluation, that person's home would have been valued at \$150,000, and at the current 70.8-cent tax rate, property taxes would have been \$1,062. Commissioners Debra Conrad-Shrader and Bill Whiteheart said that their colleagues did not cut deep enough to ease the burden on taxpayers. They both voted against the budget.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/17/05)

**Conrad proposed a list of Forsyth County budget cuts including elimination of raises for Forsyth county employees, eliminating a Spanish interpreter for the county health department.** “The board also discussed a list of cuts that Commissioner Debra Conrad-Shrader presented yesterday. It includes the elimination of salary increases for county employees. She also recommended eliminating five new positions, which would save the county \$237,740. Those jobs include a billing specialist for emergency-medical services, a Spanish interpreter for the county's public-health department and a partially state-funded staff-development position in child-protective services in the Forsyth County Department of Social Services. Money to such nonprofit organizations as Experiment in Self-Reliance and Northwest Child Development should be cut as well, Conrad-Shrader said.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 6/16/04)

**Conrad looked to the school for budget cuts, “you can’t cut without cutting out of the school system.”** “Conrad believes that when the economy improves, the county will be better able to afford adding the new debt service to the tax rate. Conrad talks about trying to renegotiate with Dell Inc. to lower incentive payments, and looking at the schools for cuts. “You can't cut without cutting out of the school system,” she said.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 5/24/09)

**Conrad is anti-abortion and sponsored a bill to allow employers to opt out of health insurance covering contraception. She also supported Republican budgets allocating millions to pseudoscience crisis pregnancy centers after voting to defund Planned Parenthood and supported policies including mandatory waiting period and ultrasound requirements.**

**Conrad was the primary sponsor of a bill that would have allowed employers to opt out of buying health insurance covering contraception “going off the cliff” for some other House Republicans**

➤ **NOTE:** Conrad voted for H730. (H730, Ref to Sen Com on Insurance, [5/20/13](#))

**Conrad was the primary sponsor of a bill that would allow more employers to exclude contraception coverage.** “North Carolina Rep. Debra Conrad, R-Forsyth, has co-sponsored a bill that would broaden the ability of health care workers to refuse to take part in an abortion, and at the same time would allow more employers the option of excluding contraception coverage from the health care plans they offer employees. Conrad, who describes herself as pro-life, said she signed on as one of the

bill's primary sponsors at the request of a fellow freshman colleague in the state House, Rep. Jacqueline Michelle Schaffer, R-Mecklenburg.” (Winston-Salem Journal, 4/18/13)

**House Republicans passed a bill that allowed employers to opt out of buying health insurance that covered contraception.** “Virtually any employer in North Carolina could opt to buy insurance plans that do not include contraception coverage under a bill that cleared the House Judiciary A Committee Wednesday. The same bill bars cities and counties from offering health insurance plans that pay for abortions except in the case of rape, incest or when the life of the mother is at risk.” (WRAL, [5/15/13](#); [H730](#), re-referred, 5/20/13)

- **Rep. Steinburg (R-Chowan) on contraception bill:** “even as far to the right as I am, that’s going off the cliff.” (WRAL, [5/15/13](#); [H730](#), re-referred, 5/20/13)

**2017 Republican budget allocated millions to pseudoscience crisis pregnancy centers, up from \$300,000 in 2016 budget. Conrad supported both.**

- **NOTE:** Conrad voted for S257 (S257, House adopted conference report, [6/22/17](#); House veto override, [6/28/17](#))
- **NOTE:** Conrad voted for H1030. (H1030, signed [7/14/16](#))

**Clinics that “discourage women from getting abortions” received significant state funding in the state budget.** “Counseling clinics that discourage women from getting abortions would receive a big boost in state financial support in the budget the General Assembly approved this week. The money will help them buy ultrasound equipment, and launch a “continuum of care” pilot project in Raleigh. The groups call themselves “pregnancy resource centers.” They used to be called “crisis pregnancy centers,” and have long been the bane of abortion-rights advocates, who say they mislead pregnant women into thinking they are abortion clinics, and then try to coerce them out of the procedure.” (News & Observer, [6/24/17](#), S257, Vetoed [6/27/17](#), Senate Veto Override [6/27/17](#), House Veto Override [6/28/17](#))

**2016 Republican budget allocated \$300,000 to Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship.** “(March of Dimes \$350,000; Teen Pregnancy Prevention Initiatives \$650,000; 17P Project \$52,000; Nurse-Family Partnership \$509,018; Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship \$300,000) 6,520,148 ~~6,520,144~~ [86,920,148](#).” (H1030, Senate PCCS, p. 191; [6/28/16](#))

**Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship is a pro-life organization** “Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship (CPCF) is a statewide, 501(c)3 nonprofit, pro-life organization committed to equip, encourage, and network pregnancy care ministries in North Carolina. Included are pregnancy care centers, adoption agencies and maternity homes. The Carolina Pregnancy Care Fellowship is the official state contact for Choose Life, Inc., the national organization devoted to getting the Choose Life license plates on the road in all fifty states.” (NC Choose Life, Accessed [10/6/16](#))

**2015 State budget targeted Planned Parenthood to defund pregnancy prevention programs, H297 made the policy permanent.**

- **NOTE:** Conrad voted for H97. (H97, signed on [9/18/15](#))
- **NOTE:** Conrad Voted for H297. (H297, signed by Gov. [10/1/15](#))

**2015 budget targeted Planned Parenthood, defunding their pregnancy prevention programs.**

“Tucked into the 636 pages of the budget document unveiled late Monday is a provision that appears to be aimed squarely at pregnancy prevention programs run by the state's largest abortion provider. The provision on page 163 would ban the state Department of Health and Human Services from contracting for ‘family planning services, pregnancy prevention activities, or adolescent parenting programs with any provider that performs abortions.’” (WRAL, [9/15/15](#); H97, signed on [9/18/15](#))



**H297 made this policy permanent, rather than a budget provision from year to year.** “The bill (H297) also makes permanent this year’s state budget provision that prevents groups that perform abortions from receiving certain state funds aimed at family planning and pregnancy prevention.” (Associated Press, [10/1/15](#); H297, signed [10/1/15](#))

**Conrad voted to require ultrasound images to be reported to state health department**

➤ **NOTE:** Conrad voted for H465. (H465, signed [6/5/15](#))

**Conrad voted for a law requiring a report on abortions including ‘measurements of the unborn child, and an ultrasound image’ be reported to state Health Department.** According to WRAL, “Gov. Pat McCrory will sign a bill into law that extends the waiting period for women seeking abortions from 24 to 72 hours... It also requires doctors who perform an abortion when the fetus is more than 16 weeks old to transmit ultrasounds to the Department of Health and Human Services in Raleigh so state officials could determine whether anyone was violating the ban on abortion following 20 weeks.” (WRAL, [6/3/15](#); H465 §14-45.1.(b1), Signed [6/5/15](#))

**The bill will require a report on abortions including ‘measurements of the unborn child, and an ultrasound image’ be reported to state Health Department.** “The bill would also require physicians who participate in an abortion after the 18th week to report information about the abortion -- such as “the measurements of the unborn child, and an ultrasound image of the unborn child that depicts the measurements” -- to the Department of Health and Human Services.” (WUNC, [4/23/15](#); H465, signed on [6/5/15](#))

**Retired UNC-Chapel Hill obstetrics professor said “there’s no rationale for the waiting period” and it “burdens women unnecessarily”.** “But reproductive rights advocates such as David Grimes said the wait was “clearly a punitive measure.” Grimes, a retired professor of obstetrics at UNC-Chapel Hill, said there’s no rationale for the waiting period. ‘It will only add to the expense for everyone concerned, patients and physicians. Like if women have to arrange child care, spend extra time in town, that burdens women unnecessarily,’ he said. ‘It’s there to punish women and their clinicians.’” (NC Health News, [4/2/15](#))

**Conrad voted to require a 72-hour waiting period for abortions, saying “I want to hear about the rights of these young babies”**

➤ **NOTE:** Conrad voted for H465. (H465, signed [6/5/15](#))

**Conrad: “I want to hear about the rights of these young babies” on abortion waiting period extension.** “Supporters have said because they believe many such later-term abortions go unreported, the measure could reduce the number. For some, that appeared to be a goal. “Once conception occurs, you’re talking about the rights of two human beings,” said GOP Rep. Debra Conrad of Winston-Salem. “I want to hear about the rights of these young babies.” Rep. Rick Glazer, a Fayetteville Democrat, said the bill was just the latest in a series of actions over the last five years to reduce abortions. “It is nothing short of constitutional evisceration by 1,000 cuts,” he said. The vote came a day after a House committee endorsed the bill along party lines and heard from the public. But a Planned Parenthood spokesman called the hearing, dominated by bill supporters, a “sham.” The bill was supposed to go to another committee but went instead to the floor.” (Charlotte Observer, 4/23/15)

**NC became only the fourth state to have a waiting period more than 24 hours.** “House Bill 465 would do two things: 1) require doctors to report all abortions after 20 weeks to DHHS, and 2) triple the waiting period between when a woman goes in for a consultation and then has an abortion to 72 hours. Twenty-six states require a waiting period. Most require 24 hours. Only three states have 72-hour waiting periods.” (WTVD, [4/23/15](#); H465, signed [6/5/15](#))

**Research has shown that increased waiting periods lead to more late-term and riskier abortions and more women traveling to other states for the procedure.** “Research on the effects of extended waiting periods has been mixed. Three other states have 72-hour waiting periods, while a total of 25 states have at least a 24-hour wait before a woman can obtain a procedure. Research conducted by the Guttmacher Institute, which tracks abortion statistics, found that increased waiting periods in Mississippi did result in a drop in abortions in that state, but that some women had traveled out of state to obtain an abortion. In Mississippi, pre-abortion counseling must occur in person, not over the phone. However, in other states the effect of waiting periods on the number of abortions was negligible. The report, done in 2009, found that the waiting periods delayed access to care for some women and increased the proportion of second-trimester abortions.” (NC Health News, [4/23/15](#))

**Conrad voted for the “MotorcycleVagina” bill, which “intended to shut down abortion clinics by regulating them tightly”**

➤ **NOTE:** Conrad voted for S353 (S353 signed [7/29/13](#))

**Critics claimed “MotorcycleVagina” bill “intended to shut down abortion clinics by regulating them tightly.” Abortion provisions were added to an unrelated bill on motorcycle safety** “House members rolled out the regulations Wednesday in committee, adding them to an unrelated bill on motorcycle safety without advance notice. [...] Opponents argued during a vigorous three-hour debate that such changes were only cosmetic, and they said the legislation is intended to shut down abortion clinics by regulating them tightly. Similar laws in other states have forced clinics there to close.” (WRAL, [7/11/13](#); S353, adopted [7/29/13](#))

➤ **House Republicans Passed bill similar to laws in other states that forced clinics to close.** “Opponents argued during a vigorous three-hour debate that such changes were only cosmetic, and they said the legislation is intended to shut down abortion clinics by regulating them tightly. Similar laws in other states have forced clinics there to close.” (WRAL, [7/11/13](#); S353, adopted [7/29/13](#))

**House version called for “relevant standards of surgery centers to apply to abortion clinics” and for physician to be present during first dose of abortion drugs.** “The House version calls for only relevant standards of surgery centers to apply to abortion clinics and requires that a physician be present for only the first dose of RU486 or other abortion drugs. Such drugs are usually administered in two to three doses, and the doctor wouldn't need to see the patient for later doses under the House proposal.” (WRAL, [7/11/13](#); S353, adopted [7/29/13](#))

**House members added regulations to “unrelated bill on motorcycle safety without advance notice.”** “House members rolled out the regulations Wednesday in committee, adding them to an unrelated bill on motorcycle safety without advance notice. Hours earlier, McCrory threatened to veto a raft of abortion regulations that the Senate passed last week, saying they crossed the line between protecting patient safety and restricting access to a legal medical procedure.” (WRAL, [7/11/13](#); S353, adopted [7/29/13](#))

**Conrad voted for a bill requiring 7<sup>th</sup> Grade Health curriculum to teach abortion as “risk for” miscarriages or premature births**

➤ **NOTE:** Conrad voted for S132. (S132, signed by Gov. [7/18/13](#))

**Republicans passed legislation requiring seventh graders be taught that abortion is a “risk for” later premature births and miscarriages.** “the bill now requires the seventh-grade health curriculum to teach that abortion, as well as drinking, smoking, illicit drug use and inadequate prenatal care, is a “risk for” later miscarriages or premature births. The bill originally referred to those factors as ‘causes.’” (WRAL, [6/27/13](#); S132, [7/18/13](#))

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