

# North Carolina Legislator Profile

## Don Davis: Senate District 5 Greene and Pitt Counties

Sen. Don Davis

**Sen. Don Davis (D-Greene, Pitt) is currently serving his fifth term in the North Carolina Senate.** Before his election, Davis taught sociology at Lenoir Community College, Pitt Community College, and East Carolina University. He also served eight years of active duty in the Air Force. Davis got his start in politics as the mayor of Snow Hill, serving from 2001 to 2008.

**Davis supported Republican leadership instead of standing up for the people in his district.** Davis voted for a Republican budgets that shortchanged teachers and cut taxes for corporations instead of raising per pupil spending. He again stood with Republicans and voted to dismantle health care coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.



### Summary

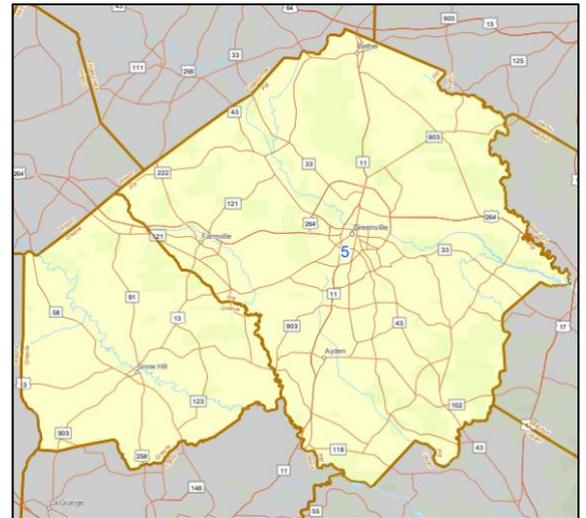
Davis voted to dismantle health care coverage for people with pre-existing conditions.

- Senate Republicans amended a school safety bill to include provisions intended to destabilize the Affordable Care Act by allowing nonprofits to offer stripped-down health care plans
- The plans that would have been allowed under H933 would open the door for health insurance plans that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, cause premiums to skyrocket

Davis voted for a Republican budget that shortchanged teachers and cut taxes for corporations instead of raising per pupil spending

- Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, only saw an increase of \$30 a month, merely a tank of gas.

Senate District 5



## Davis voted to dismantle health care coverage for people with pre-existing conditions

➤ **NOTE:** Davis voted for H933 on 3<sup>rd</sup> reading (H933, Senate 3<sup>rd</sup> reading, [6/14/18](#))

## Senate Republicans amended a school safety bill to include provisions intended to destabilize the Affordable Care Act by allowing nonprofits to offer stripped-down health care plans

### **The Senate Health Care Committee amended H933 to include health insurance provisions.**

“Senate Republicans unveiled the new portions of House Bill 933 at a committee meeting Thursday morning, potentially clearing surprise provisions aimed purportedly at lowering the threshold for small employers to offer self-funded health plans and, perhaps most importantly, clearing less-regulated association health plans for membership organizations like the [N.C. Farm Bureau](#).” (Progressive Pulse, [6/7/18](#); H933, House failed to concur [6/14/18](#))

**The legislation would allow nonprofits to offer “health benefit plans” exempt of state and federal regulation.** “Legislation poised for passage in the N.C. Senate would allow nonprofits to offer “health benefit plans” that would be exempt from nearly all state and federal regulations that govern health insurance. Supporters say the measure would allow nonprofits to offer health benefit plans that would be similar to health insurance, but could be cheaper than health insurance purchased on the Affordable Care Act exchange as well as other forms of insurance. But critics worry the legislation would open the door for products that would discriminate against those with pre-existing health conditions, offer skimpy benefits, and come with few or no consumer protections. The plans would be similar to those offered in Tennessee, where premiums on the ACA exchanges have climbed precipitously, in part because of the impact of these unregulated plans.” (North Carolina Health News, [6/14/18](#); H933, House failed to concur [6/14/18](#))

**These plans would not require employers to cover a minimum set of services and allow them price-out certain preexisting conditions.** “The legislation would allow nonprofit organizations that have existed for at least 10 years, and which offer membership in all 100 counties, to offer their members health benefit plans. Unlike other health insurance plans and coverage offered by employers, these benefit plans wouldn’t be required to cover a minimum set of health care services. And plans could be priced at different levels so that people with pre-existing health conditions would be charged more or else not have their pre-existing conditions covered.” (North Carolina Health News, [6/14/18](#); H933, House failed to concur [6/14/18](#))

## The plans that would have been allowed under H933 would open the door for health insurance plans that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions, cause premiums to skyrocket

**Critics warned that the provisions would open the door for plans that would discriminate against those with pre-existing health conditions, offer skimpy benefits, and come with few or no consumer protections.** “Legislation poised for passage in the N.C. Senate would allow nonprofits to offer “health benefit plans” that would be exempt from nearly all state and federal regulations that govern health insurance. Supporters say the measure would allow nonprofits to offer health benefit plans that would be similar to health insurance, but could be cheaper than health insurance purchased on the Affordable Care Act exchange as well as other forms of insurance. But critics worry the legislation would open the door for products that would discriminate against those with pre-existing health conditions, offer skimpy benefits, and come with few or no consumer protections. The plans would be similar to those offered in Tennessee, where premiums on the ACA exchanges have climbed precipitously, in part because of the impact of these unregulated plans.” (North Carolina Health News, [6/14/18](#))

**According to the NC Justice Center, these new plans cherry-pick young, healthy enrollees and leave a sicker risk pool in the individual market, causing premiums to skyrocket.** “Under the guise of improving affordability, the bill would allow for the creation of new health insurance plans that would

not be subject to state and federal insurance rules. That means that these plans would be able to discriminate against North Carolinians with pre-existing conditions by either refusing to cover them or charging them higher premiums based on their medical history. Even those who are able to 'pass' the medical underwriting test may end up in plans that do not provide coverage for essential health care services they need, as these plans are completely exempt from existing insurance law. By cherry picking young and healthy enrollees, these new plans would leave a sicker risk pool in the individual market, destabilizing the insurance market and causing premiums to skyrocket for those in need of comprehensive coverage." (Progressive Pulse, [6/7/18](#); H933, House failed to concur [6/14/18](#))

**Davis voted for a Republican budget that shortchanged teachers and cut taxes for corporations instead of raising per pupil spending**

- **NOTE:** Davis voted in favor of the 2017 Republican budget on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>d</sup> reading of the conference report. (S257, conference report adopted 3<sup>d</sup>, [6/21/17](#))

**The 2017 Republican budget continued the trend of cutting taxes for corporations rather than raising per pupil spending.**

**The 2017 Republican budget continued the trend of cutting taxes rather than raising per pupil spending.** “This budget will cut individual income tax rates to 5.25 percent from 5.499 percent and the corporate rate to 2.5 percent from 3 percent in the second year, costing the state \$900 million annually when fully implemented. This means that the legislature will eventually have cut \$3.5 billion annually in all its tax cuts – money that could have gone for services. North Carolina, for example, ranks 41st nationally in per pupil spending for public education. Here is a question for lawmakers: Which is most likely hindering industrial recruitment and economic development in small-town North Carolina – high taxes or poor schools?” (News & Observer, Editorial, [6/24/17](#))

**The 2017 Republican shortchanged teachers by failing to meaningfully raise teacher salaries and failed to include a stipend to aid teacher with out of pocket expenses**

**HEADLINE: Big pay raises? N.C. gives teachers just a tank of gas** (Charlotte Observer, Op-Ed, [6/21/17](#))

**Many educators, including veterans of 25 years, only saw 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](#))

**Starting teacher pay remained 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](#))

**Republican lawmakers did not include Gov. Cooper’s recommendation of a stipend to aid teachers with out-of-pocket expenses in the final 2017 budget proposal.** “He also criticized lawmakers’ decision to omit his proposed stipend for teachers to help buy classroom supplies, a lack of funding for teaching assistants, school nurses and school counselors and shifting more money into the Opportunity Scholarships private school voucher program. “Teachers see through dishonest budget gimmicks,” Cooper said as he was surrounded by a group of teachers at the Executive Mansion.” (WRAL, [6/26/17](#))

**Teachers across the country spent \$500 to \$1000 out-of-pocket for classroom supplies and job-related expenses last year.** “According to a recent report from “Time,” the Education Market Association says most teachers across the country spent \$500 to \$1,000 annually out of their own pockets for classroom supplies and job-related expenses last year. The report said that \$1.6 billion in school supply costs are shifted from parents or cash-strapped school districts onto teachers themselves.” (Gaston Gazette, [5/6/17](#))

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