

North Carolina Legislator Profile

Dan Bishop: Senate District 39 Mecklenburg County

Dan Bishop (R- Mecklenburg) is serving his second term in the NC Senate. Prior to joining the NC Senate, Bishop was a representative in the NC House for one term.

Bishop repeatedly voted against making health care more affordable and accessible for North Carolinians. **He was the only NC Senator to favor big pharmaceutical companies over North Carolinians and vote against H384, a bill that protected small community pharmacists and kept prescriptions affordable.** Bishop, along with other Senate Republicans, chose to amend a school safety bill to include provisions intended to destabilize the Affordable Care Act, once again failing to protect North Carolinians' health care.

Bishop was a primary sponsor of HB2, demonstrating how little he cares about protecting the LGBTQ+ community in NC. Not only did HB2 fail to protect the LGBTQ+ community, but it also cost the state hundreds of millions of dollars. Bishop was more than willing to prioritize his discrimination against the LGBTQ+ community above the NC economy.

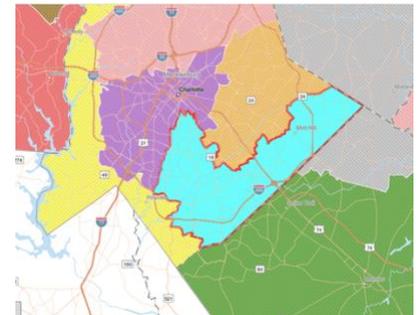
In 2015 Bishop voted to increase taxes on NC families and small business owners, making it more expensive to do business, get a driver's license, and have a baby. He also voted to cut food stamps for 100,000 North Carolinians.

Summary:

- **Bishop has a long history of voting against affordable and accessible health care for North Carolinians.**
 - Bishop was the only NC Senator to vote with pharmaceutical companies and against North Carolinians struggling to afford their prescriptions.
 - Bishop 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 that discriminate against people with pre-existing conditions
- **Bishop sponsored HB2 which eliminated discrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community and cost NC between \$450 and \$630 million.**
 - Bishop sponsored HB2 which eliminated discrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community.
 - It is estimated that HB2 cost NC between \$450 million and \$630 million.
- **In 2015 Bishop voted for increased fees on families and small business owners, making it more expensive to do business, get a driver's license, and even to have a baby.**
 - Bishop voted to cut food stamps for 100,000 recipients in a "needless bill from heartless Republicans" that wouldn't save the state money



Sen. Dan Bishop



Senate District 39

Bishop has a long history of voting against affordable and accessible health care for North Carolinians.

Bishop was the only NC senator to vote with pharmaceutical companies and against North Carolinians struggling to afford their prescriptions.

- **NOTE:** Bishop voted against H466 on 2nd Reading, Signed by Gov., [7/18/17](#))

Bishop was the only NC senator to vote against S384, a bill that allows independent pharmacies leverage in their negotiations with Pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs).

“Pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) are the big companies that most patients don’t know exist. They’re big companies with fat profits that act as middlemen between insurers and patients. Those profits are generated by charging fees to insurance companies to handle the pesky business of getting drugs to patients on one side, and by using their large size to negotiate lower prices with drugmakers. And while patients may pay lower prices for their medications, pharmacists – in particular independent pharmacists – often feel squeezed by PBMs. That’s what’s behind bills (House Bill 466 and companion Senate Bill 384) making their way through the state legislature in Raleigh that would give independent pharmacies a little bit of leverage in their negotiations with PBMs.” (North Carolina Health News, [4/27/17](#), H466, Signed by Gov., [7/18/17](#))

- **PBMs are the big companies that act as middlemen between patients and insurers, profiting by charging fees to insurance companies.** “Pharmacy benefits managers (PBMs) are the big companies that most patients don’t know exist. They’re big companies with fat profits that act as middlemen between insurers and patients. Those profits are generated by charging fees to insurance companies to handle the pesky business of getting drugs to patients on one side, and by using their large size to negotiate lower prices with drugmakers. And while patients may pay lower prices for their medications, pharmacists – in particular independent pharmacists – often feel squeezed by PBMs. That’s what’s behind bills (House Bill 466 and companion Senate Bill 384) making their way through the state legislature in Raleigh that would give independent pharmacies a little bit of leverage in their negotiations with PBMs.” (North Carolina Health News, [4/27/17](#))

H466 prohibited PBMs from collecting money from patients over what was billed by the pharmacy, which would help protect small community pharmacists.

“And when a PBM starts to negotiate with a small community pharmacist, like the one owned by Joe Moose and his brother in Cabarrus County, the PBM calls the shots, and often, small pharmacists get squeezed. “I don’t even know when I’m filling a prescription if I’m making money or not,” Moose said during a 2016 interview with NC Health News. “For example, Prilosec costs me 20 bucks,” Moose said. “I may sell that generic to a patient, I run it through the insurance and they come back and say they’ll only pay me \$15 for that drug. Then the patient has a \$3 copay, so I actually lost two to sell it. “So we’re selling drugs and have no idea whether we’re making money off that. I don’t know of any other business that operates like that,” Moose said. That’s one of the changes HB 466 would make, prohibiting a PBM from collecting money from patients over and above what was billed by the pharmacy. The bill would also allow local pharmacists to discuss lower-priced options with their patients, something that many PBM contracts currently prohibit.” (North Carolina Health News, [4/27/17](#), H466, Signed by Gov., [7/18/17](#))

H466 allowed local pharmacists to discuss lower-priced options with patients, which many PBM contracts do not allow. “And when a PBM starts to negotiate with a small community pharmacist, like the one owned by Joe Moose and his brother in Cabarrus County, the PBM calls the shots, and often, small pharmacists get squeezed. “I don’t even know when I’m filling a prescription if I’m making money or not,” Moose said during a 2016 interview with NC Health News. “For example, Prilosec costs me 20 bucks,” Moose said. “I may sell that generic to a patient, I run it through the insurance and they come back and say they’ll only pay me \$15 for that drug. Then the patient has a \$3 copay, so I actually lost two to sell it. “So we’re selling drugs and have no idea whether we’re making money off that. I don’t know of any other business that operates like that,” Moose said. That’s one of the changes HB 466 would make, prohibiting a PBM from collecting money from patients over and above what was billed by the pharmacy. The bill would also allow local pharmacists to discuss lower-priced options with their patients, something that many PBM contracts currently prohibit.” (North Carolina Health News, [4/27/17](#), H466, Signed by Gov., [7/18/17](#))

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

➤ **NOTE:** Bishop voted for H933 on 3rd reading (H933, Senate 3rd 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](#))

Bishop sponsored HB2 which eliminated discrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community and cost NC between \$450 and \$630 million.

- **NOTE:** Bishop was a primary sponsor of HB2 and voted for the bill. (H2, signed by Gov., [3/23/16](#))

Bishop sponsored HB2 which eliminated discrimination protections for the LGBTQ+ community.

Lawmakers passed “sweeping law eliminating anti-discrimination protections for all lesbians, gays and bisexuals.” “A day after Gov. Pat McCrory of North Carolina [signed a sweeping law](#) eliminating anti-discrimination protections for all lesbians, gays and bisexuals and barring transgender people from using bathrooms that do not match the gender they were born with, the battle lines were clear in a bitterly divided state.” (NY Times, [3/24/16](#))

Headline: “N.C. Gov Pat McCrory signs into law bill restricting LGBT protections.” “The impetus of the special session was a provision in Charlotte’s expanded nondiscrimination ordinance that would allow transgender individuals to use the bathroom that corresponds to the gender with which they identify. Critics said it was “social engineering” to allow people born as biological males into women’s restrooms. They said legislation was needed to correct Charlotte’s “overreach” and to protect the safety of women and children. The bill prohibits any such bathroom flexibility. But it also will keep Charlotte and any other municipality from adding new protections for gays, lesbians or transgender individuals.” (Charlotte Observer, [3/23/16](#))

Under HB2 transgender people who have not changed the gender marker on their birth certificate had no legal right to use public bathrooms with which they identify. “Transgender people who have not taken surgical and legal steps to change the gender noted on their birth certificates have no legal right under state law to use public restrooms of the gender with which they identify. Cities and counties no longer can establish a different standard. Critics of the Charlotte ordinance cite privacy concerns and say it was “social engineering” to allow people born as biological males to enter women’s restrooms.” (Charlotte Observer, [3/23/16](#))

It is estimated that HB2 cost NC between \$450 million and \$630 million.

It’s estimated that HB2 will cost North Carolina more than \$3.76 billion in lost business over a dozen years. “The Associated Press used dozens of interviews and multiple public records requests to determine that North Carolina’s “bathroom bill” will cost the state more than \$3.76 billion in lost business over a dozen years.” (Associated Press, [3/27/17](#))

According to estimates, HB2 cost North Carolina between \$450 million and \$630 million. “We ruled that claim Mostly False. Our research, plus interviews with economists and analysis of other studies, has shown HB2 probably cost the state between \$450 million and \$630 million. Others have cited a \$500 million loss. The law has also cost North Carolina a minimum of 1,400 jobs.” (PolitiFact, [3/7/17](#))

North Carolina lost more than \$196 million from sporting events, conventions, concerts, and other events. “The AP conducted more than a dozen interviews and email exchanges with tourism officials and planners to determine the state lost more than \$196 million from sporting events, conventions, concerts and other events. Cities researched include: Asheville, Charlotte,

Greensboro, Raleigh, Manteo, Wilmington, Durham and Fayetteville.” (Associated Press, [3/27/17](#))

North Carolina lost an estimated \$91 million when the NCAA and ACC moved 15 college championships out of the state. “Last week alone, the state lost out on an estimated \$91 million in revenue when the NCAA and Atlantic Coast Conference announced they were moving 15 college championship events from the state, citing values of equality and diversity. The events include early-round games in the Division I men's basketball tournament, which North Carolina cities have hosted in 11 of the past 14 seasons, and the ACC football title match, which Charlotte's Bank of America Stadium has hosted every year since 2010.” (Business Insider, [9/21/16](#))

Due to HB2, the NBA pulled the 2017 All-Star game from Charlotte, costing the city upward of \$100 million. “But that wasn't even the biggest financial hit North Carolina took from a sports organization. In July, the NBA's concerns with the law spurred the league to move its 2017 All-Star Game from Charlotte to New Orleans. The loss of the marquee weekend means Charlotte will miss out on upward of \$100 million, according to the Charlotte Regional Visitors Authority, using estimates from previous All-Star games in similarly sized markets.” (Business Insider, [9/21/16](#))

HB2 cost North Carolina at least 1,400 jobs. “We ruled that claim Mostly False. Our research, plus interviews with economists and analysis of other studies, has shown HB2 probably cost the state between \$450 million and \$630 million. Others have cited a \$500 million loss. The law has also cost North Carolina a minimum of 1,400 jobs.” (PolitiFact, [3/7/17](#))

In 2015 Bishop voted for increased fees on families and small business owners, making it more expensive to do business, get a driver's license, and even to have a baby.

➤ **Note:** Bishop voted for H97 (H97, Signed [9/18/15](#))

North Carolinians would pay \$200 million in additional fees to the DMV. “For 77 days only a handful of top Republicans from the House and Senate negotiated the details. And in budgets, the details matter. That’s where you find the consequences of the legislation, both intentional and unintentional--those that make headlines, and those that don’t. Like the \$200 million in additional fees North Carolinians will have to pay at the DMV. Or increasing the cost of state mandated medical screenings on newborns from \$19 to \$24.” (WFAE, [9/15/15](#))

The 2015 budget increased newborn screening fee by 26 percent. “For 77 days only a handful of top Republicans from the House and Senate negotiated the details. And in budgets, the details matter. That’s where you find the consequences of the legislation, both intentional and unintentional--those that make headlines, and those that don’t. Like the \$200 million in additional fees North Carolinians will have to pay at the DMV. Or increasing the cost of state mandated medical screenings on newborns from \$19 to \$24.” (WFAE, [9/15/15](#); H97, Section 12E.12.(a); Signed [9/18/15](#))

The 2015 Republican budget more than doubled annual inspection fee ice cream factory owners must pay the Commissioner of Agriculture and increased fee ice cream retailers pay by 400 percent. “Inspection fees for ice cream factory inspections will go from \$40 to \$100 while ice cream retailers will get an increase from \$10 per inspection to \$50.” (Asheboro Courier-Tribune, [9/26/15](#); H97, Section 13.5; Signed [9/18/15](#))

H97 levied new license fee of \$350 on adult day facilities and an annual renewal fee of \$315. “For example, facilities providing “overnight respite” will now be required to get a license. The initial license will cost \$350 for one year. The cost to renew will be \$315 annually. Overnight respite is defined in the budget as ‘the provision of group care and supervision in a place other than their usual place of abode on a 24-hour basis for a specified period of time to adults who may be physically or mentally disabled in order to provide temporary relief for a caregiver.’ The definition includes any facility certified to provide adult day care services.” (Asheboro Courier-Tribune, [9/26/15](#); H97, Section 12G.3.(i); Signed [9/18/15](#))

H97 doubled annual registration fee for drug manufacturers or repackagers and raised fee for wholesalers. “The Commissioner shall adopt rules to implement the registration requirements of this section. These rules ~~may~~ shall provide for an annual registration fee of ~~up to five hundred dollars (\$500.00)~~ one thousand dollars (\$1,000) for companies operating as ~~manufacturers, wholesalers, or repackagers.~~ manufacturers or repackagers and seven hundred dollars (\$700.00) for companies operating as wholesalers. The Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall use these funds for the implementation of the North Carolina Food, Drug and Cosmetic Act.” (H97, Section 13.4.(a); Signed [9/18/15](#))

Dynamic pricing in H97 “may make the park system less accessible and may ultimately put fees on attractions that had historically been financed by taxpayers.” “A new fee structure may make the park system less accessible and may ultimately put fees on attractions that had historically been financed by taxpayers, a conservation group said Thursday. Park officials said the new fee flexibility would be implemented responsibly. With dynamic pricing, the state Division of Parks and Recreation would have more flexibility to set fees on such things

as parking, campsites, picnic shelters and other items, according to Charlie Peek, a state parks spokesman.” (*Winston-Salem Journal*, [9/21/15](#))

Under H97 DENR, Department of Cultural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture must submit a report on “charging new entrance or admission fees at other attractions” not currently charged. “No later than March 1, 2016, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, the Department of Cultural Resources, and the Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services shall submit a report on implementation of the new pricing strategy to the Environmental Review Commission, including an evaluation of the feasibility and obstacles to charging new entrance or admission fees at other attractions not subject to this section.” (H97, Section 14.11.(f); Signed [9/18/15](#))

The 2015 budget doubled the cost for autopsies, with the state passing on \$1,750 of the extra cost to counties for each autopsy. “County governments may be surprised to learn they will now share the cost for autopsies. The cost for that service more than doubled in this budget from \$1,250 per autopsy to \$2,800 per autopsy. In the past, the state paid that cost when the autopsy was requested by a county district attorney or superior court judge. Now, the county will pick up \$1,750 of that \$2,800 fee, provided the victim resides in the county where he or she is found dead. If a person dies outside his or her county of residence, the state will cover the entire cost of the autopsy.” (Asheboro Courier-Tribune, [9/26/15](#); H97, Section 12E.5.(a); Signed [9/18/15](#))

Bishop voted to cut food stamps for 100,000 recipients in a “needless bill from heartless Republicans” that wouldn’t save the state money

➤ **Note:** Bishop voted for H318. (H318, signed by Gov., [10/29/15](#))

Republicans passed bill to cut food stamp benefits for nearly 100,000 recipients. “Some North Carolinians in need will have to work a little harder to maintain food stamp benefits come January. Undoing eight years of state policy, Gov. Pat McCrory's administration is requiring that childless, able-bodied adults ages 18 to 49 meet time-sensitive work requirements to continue receiving food assistance... Nearly half of the state's 200,000 recipients of food stamps, now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program or SNAP, will be affected Jan. 1 during a phased implementation. The most urbanized counties with the lowest unemployment rates will see the change first... Participants will have three months to find a job, enter a work training program or volunteer or their aid will be slashed for a three-year period. People will lose benefits even if they are trying to find work, or are employed for fewer than 20 hours a week.” (*Asheville Citizens-Time*, [9/29/15](#); H318 signed by Gov., [10/29/15](#))

Charlotte Observer Editorial: “A needless bill from heartless Republicans.” “Keep in mind that the food stamps are issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is paid for with federal dollars. That means HB 318, if it passes, won’t save North Carolina money. In fact, the bill’s passage could be costly to retailers that sell food, especially in the rural areas that see SNAP dollars because of double-digit unemployment.” (*The Charlotte Observer, Editorial*, [9/27/15](#))

Bill “won’t save North Carolina money” due to food stamps being issued under federal program. “Keep in mind that the food stamps are issued under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which is paid for with federal dollars. That means HB 318, if it passes, won’t save North Carolina money. In fact, the bill’s passage could be costly to retailers

that sell food, especially in the rural areas that see SNAP dollars because of double-digit unemployment.” (*The Charlotte Observer, Editorial, [9/27/15](#)*)

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