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MEMORANDUM

To: Wake County Board of Commissioners
From: David Ellis, County Manager
Date: August 4, 2022
Re: **NCACC Legislative Priorities for 2022**

Each year, the North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) seeks input from members about its legislative priorities. Wake County has an opportunity to advocate to the Association for specific priorities. For the 2022 session, I have contracted with a lobbyist to advocate for the County's prioritized issues.

Focusing our energy and voice on the highest priorities will help us be more successful. At the August 8 work session, I will ask the Board of Commissioners to affirm its legislative priorities. The list below captures what staff believe are the Board's top priorities at this time. We would appreciate your review of this list prior to the work session. If the Board wishes to change its priorities, we ask Commissioners to provide that guidance on August 8.

I have contracted with a lobbyist to advocate for the County at the State legislature. Staff recognize that the County, and our contracted lobbyist, may need to advocate for additional issues that arise. This list will also provide staff and our lobbyist a clear set of priorities to guide our efforts, as well as your individual advocacy efforts.

Priority Legislative Issues:

- Close the Medicaid Coverage Gap (Medicaid expansion)
- Increased State funding for Wake County Public School System
- Extend or broaden eligibility requirements for State-provided property tax assistance programs currently authorized
- Financial support to implement the Wake Transit plan

- Support for SmartStart ThreeSchool
- Prioritize the needs of foster children with complex challenges
- Address barriers preventing suspension rather than termination of Medicaid coverage for persons in jail
- Preserve status quo with local sales tax distribution
- Place no unfunded mandate on counties