



Roy Cooper, Governor
State of North Carolina

GOVERNOR ROY COOPER OBJECTIONS AND VETO MESSAGE:

House Bill 918, "AN ACT TO AMEND VARIOUS ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND DEPENDENCY LAWS TO ENSURE THE SAFETY OF CHILDREN IN OUT-OF-HOME PLACEMENTS, EXPEDITE PERMANENCY PLANNING HEARINGS FOR CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN REMOVED FROM THE HOME, CREATE A PRESUMPTION THAT FOSTER PARENTS WITH WHOM A CHILD HAS LIVED CONTINUOUSLY FOR NINE MONTHS ARE DEEMED NONRELATIVE KIN, CREATE AN AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCE FOR THE EXPOSURE TO UNLAWFUL CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES IN UTERO OR CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES USED IN VIOLATION OF THE LAW IN UTERO, AND REQUIRE THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, DIVISION OF SOCIAL SERVICES, TO REPORT ANNUALLY CERTAIN EXPENDITURES FOR THE SUPPLEMENTAL NUTRITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM (SNAP) AND TEMPORARY ASSISTANCE FOR NEEDY FAMILIES (TANF) PROGRAM."

House Bill 918 discourages pregnant women with substance use disorders to seek treatment and prenatal care, risking their health and the health of newborns. And while it penalizes pregnant women with substance use disorders, it does nothing to expand access to treatment. This would disproportionately impact women of color and low-income women, who are already less likely to have access to the substance use treatment and quality healthcare they need.

Therefore, I veto the bill.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Roy Cooper".

Roy Cooper
Governor

RECEIVED

JUL 02 2020

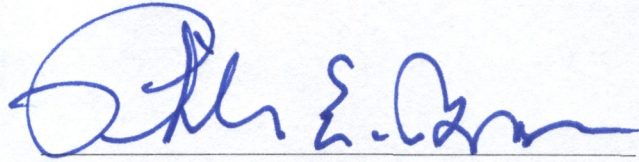
RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

1:40 PM

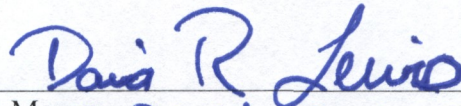
A handwritten signature in red ink that reads "James N. Hise".

The bill, having been vetoed, is returned to the Clerk of the North Carolina House of Representatives on this the 2nd day of July 2020, at 1:40 pm for reconsideration by that body.

SECTION 3. Except as otherwise provided, this act is effective when it becomes law.
In the General Assembly read three times and ratified this the 25th day of June, 2020.

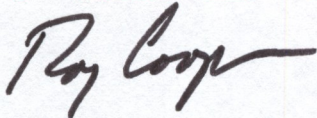


Philip E. Berger
~~Presiding Officer of the Senate~~
President Pro Tempore



~~Tim Moore~~ David R. Lewis
~~Speaker of the House of Representatives~~
Presiding officer

VETO



Roy Cooper
Governor

Approved _____ .m. this _____ day of _____, 2020

RECEIVED FROM GOVERNOR

JUL 02 2020

1:40 pm

