



Danny Jenkins
President
Pittsboro, NC

Benjamin Kral
Vice President
Monroe, NC

Steven Scherbekow
Treasurer
Clayton, NC

Chandler Byrd
Secretary
Lexington, NC

For Immediate Release
8/19/2019

Contact:
Danny Jenkins, President
Email: info@nctroopers.com

NORTH CAROLINA STATE TROOPERS AND FALLEN OFFICERS SUFFER FROM GOVERNOR COOPER'S BUDGET VETO AND MEDICAID ULTIMATUM

Summerfield, North Carolina – North Carolina Troopers and their families are tremendously disappointed in Governor Cooper's veto of the bipartisan state budget. As NC Troopers continue to put on their uniforms and protect the citizens of North Carolina, their step salary plan along with the 2.5% salary increase funded by the bipartisan state budget has come to a screeching halt.

"I have received numerous inquiries from troopers around the state and I want to clarify any confusion or possible misinformation. Under the Conference Budget passed by the NC General Assembly and vetoed by Gov. Cooper, the Highway Patrol Troopers would receive both a step increase if eligible and an additional 2.5% salary increase at the start of each year in the biennium," Representative Jamie Boles, Moore County.

NC Troopers are compensated based on a step plan which takes into account their years of experience until they reach 'top pay'. Rather than initially compensating them higher, trooper salaries start at the low end and are gradually increased within the position bracket each year. Governor Cooper's veto blocks troopers from receiving a well-deserved raise that ranges between 2.5% and 9%. *See Addendum A for more information.

Cooper's veto also curbs funding for the North Carolina Troopers Association's Caisson Unit. The NCTA Caisson Unit provides fallen police officers and firefighters who are killed in the line of duty with horse drawn funeral services in North Carolina, Virginia, Tennessee, South Carolina, and Georgia.

"North Carolina is fortunate for the elite group of men and women who serve in the State Highway Patrol. Law enforcement and first responders put their lives on the line for the safety and well-being of others, some paying the ultimate sacrifice. The NCTA Caisson Unit provides tribute and recognition to fallen heroes who gave their lives, protecting and serving their community. It's very disheartening that the Governor would hold trooper salary increases and caisson funding hostage over his Medicaid ultimatum," Representative Jason Saine, Lincoln County.

Governor Cooper has made every effort to drastically increase the salaries of his political appointees. Since 2018, the Governor's officer has approved multiple raises for the DPS Secretary representing a nearly 30% increase in salary and totaling approximately \$40,000. It's a sad day when Cooper gives one of his political appointees a raise nearly equivalent to the full salary of a first-year trooper, yet the first-year trooper gets deprived of any increase due to Cooper's veto. If the Governor would exhibit a tenth of the effort that he has put into providing salary increases for his cronies, troopers, along with other law enforcement and correctional officers in the field would be in better shape. It's far past time that Governor Cooper starts standing up for the men and women on the frontlines who protect and serve this great state.

"Law Enforcement has always been a tough and dangerous job but never has it been as challenging as it is today. The hardworking men and women of the Highway Patrol sacrifice and risk their lives to ensure our citizens are safe, each and every day. The state's Republican leadership has worked rigorously to increase the salaries of our troopers, but Governor Cooper's veto has brought a halt to these raises. We are asking legislators to put aside party-lines and vote to override Governor Cooper's veto," Retired Highway Patrol Colonel Bill Grey.

##