



Preventing Violence in Our Communities

Keeping North Carolina families safe must be job one for our government. We must do more to fight back against crime in our state. Attorney General Stein's public safety package includes the strategies listed below.

Combatting Drugs

- **Create Fentanyl Control Unit:** Add criminal attorneys to DOJ's Special Prosecutions Section to assist local DAs with complicated fentanyl dealing and trafficking cases.
- **Stop Counterfeit Pill Act:** Make it a felony to possess equipment to make counterfeit pills containing fentanyl and other controlled substances. (SB206)
- **Novel Opioid Control Act:** Add the next fentanyl – nitazines – to the Controlled Substances Act. (HB258)
- **Stop Addiction Treatment Fraud:** Make patient brokering a felony and combat this corrupt, deadly practice that impacts people who are seeking treatment for their substance use disorder. (HB 415/SB 361)
- **State Crime Lab Updates:** We've renovated the Drug Chemistry and Toxicology sections of the State Crime Lab to allow scientists to swiftly and efficiently test evidence critical to law enforcement investigations.

Supporting Law Enforcement Officers

- **Offer Law Enforcement Hiring Bonuses:** Encourage hiring military veteran, out-of-state, and new local officers by providing generous hiring bonuses. Graduates of North Carolina Basic Law Enforcement Training should be offered \$5,000 bonus, out-of-state transfers and former military police should be offered a \$10,000 bonus and \$10,000 relocation stipend.
- **Launch a Public Awareness and Out-of-State Recruiting Campaign:** Launch an advertising campaign to recruit officers from other states and territories.
- **Stop Pension Penalty:** Allow retired officers to come back to work without impacting their retirement pay. (SB113 and HB768)
- **Incentivize Further Education:** Provide monthly bonus pay for officers who get additional education or training, up to a bachelor's degree and Advanced Law Enforcement Certificate.
- **Offer Mental Health and Wellness Resources:** Offer specific, tailored mental health and wellness resources for officers to address the unique and difficult challenges they face in keeping our communities safe.

- **Expand the Criminal Justice Fellows Program:** Expand the CJ Fellows program to all counties to help address law enforcement personnel shortages statewide and allow three years for completion to give fellows greater flexibility and the chance for success. CJ Fellows repays community college loans for people who work four years in a North Carolina law enforcement job. (HB612)
- **Allow Civilian Traffic Investigation.** Use trained civilians to respond to minor accidents and free up sworn police officers to respond more quickly to higher priority calls for service, better protecting public safety (HB140 and SB251).

Protecting Kids

- **Universal Background Checks:** Keep guns out of the hands of violent felons, people with serious mental illness, people on the no-fly list, and people with outstanding domestic violence protective orders. (SB496)
- **Red Flag Laws/Extreme Risk Protection Orders:** Authorize red flag laws so loved ones and friends can petition the court to remove guns from people who pose a risk to others or themselves. (SB496 and HB281/SB215)
- **Raise the Age to 21:** Ensure that North Carolinians under 21 – who are too young to buy a beer – are too young to purchase military-grade weapons. (HB289/SB210)
- **Safe Gun Storage:** Ensure safe storage of firearms so they are not a risk to children. (HB254 and HB289/SB210)
- **Promote School Safety:** Ensure every school is fully staffed with school nurses, social workers, counselors, and psychologists who can help kids and lower the risk of violence. (HB336/SB263 and SB740)

Testing Sexual Assault Kits

- **Cold Case Unit:** Establish a Cold Case Unit to help local law enforcement use DNA hits to reopen cold cases. As the sexual assault kit backlog is cleared, we are getting more hits to the database than ever before. But all too often law enforcement is overworked, under-resourced, and in need of additional support on cold cases.
- **Retain Crime Lab Scientists:** Maintain competitive salaries for Crime Lab staff so the Lab can process evidence more quickly, better support the needs of law enforcement and prosecutors, and better protect public safety. (HB524)

Promoting Public Safety

- **Require Body Cameras:** Give state and local law enforcement agencies the resources they need and mandate use of body-worn cameras for officers.
- **Court Reminder System:** Create a court reminder system, like the text reminders we receive for medical appointments. A recent study demonstrated that sending text messages reduced failures to appear by 21 percent.

Fighting Fraud

- **Expand Medicaid Fraud Unit:** Expand the Medicaid Investigation Division, which has recovered \$1 billion for federal and state government since its inception, to meet growing fraud control needs with Medicaid expansion on the horizon.
- **Strengthen Identity Theft Protection:** Ensure data security laws cover new forms of breaches, require timely notification in the event of a breach, and require reasonable security practices to protect personal information. (SB733)