

State Rep. Jeffrey Elmore Named NCASA's 2020 Champion for Children



RALEIGH | North Carolina Rep. Jeffrey Elmore, R-Wilkes, was awarded the 2020 Champion for Children, June 12, 2020. The award was originally to be presented at the NCASA's annual Conference on Educational Leadership, scheduled to take place in Wilmington, N.C., back in March. However, due to the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, the conference had to be postponed and eventually canceled for the health and welfare of all attendees and support staff.

The Champion for Children Award is given annually by the NCASA to an individual who has exhibited true commitment and leadership in supporting and enhancing public schools in N.C.

"Rep. Elmore is a go-to [resource] on education issues in the North Carolina House of Representatives," said Katherine Joyce, NCASA Executive Director. "We at NCASA know him as having an open-door and an open-mind in hearing from our organization and our member school leaders that we are all collaborating with to do what's best for students."

Rep. Elmore is a veteran teacher of twenty years, who works in the Wilkes County Public School system. He began his career as a legislator in 2013 and has been re-elected three times since. He currently serves on many committees in the state house, most notably, as Co-Chair of the Education K-12 Committee and the Appropriations on Education Committee.

Rep. Elmore's ongoing focus in the General Assembly is to advocate for education policy initiatives such as school safety, arts education, calendar flexibility, school facility funding, and a commitment to improving low-performing schools. His experience as an educator gives him valuable insights into the needs school employees and leaders must have to provide a quality education for all public-school students across the state. Rep. Elmore continues to work tirelessly with the NCASA and school leaders across the state to seek out ways to continually improve K-12 education for children.

Some of the accomplishments cited for his award were his effectiveness as an educator in the classroom and, as a legislator, his ability to work across the aisle to find meaningful solutions to complex problems facing students and public schools across the state. He was also particularly recognized for advocating for pay increases and better benefits for hardworking school employees during state negotiations during this term. In addition, his ongoing collaborations with superintendents, school leaders and members of the NCASA were also key reasons Rep. Elmore was given the award.

"It is an honor to receive this award.," said Rep. Elmore. "We must all work together from all levels and areas of the educational world to better our students for the future of North Carolina. Thank you NCASA for the recognition."

Past recipients of NCASA's Champion for Children award include current Governor Roy A. Cooper; currently serving Reps. D. Craig Horn and Hugh Blackwell; former Governors Beverly E. Perdue, James B. Hunt, Jr. and Michael F. Easley; former State Superintendent June Atkinson; former State Board of Education Chairman Howard N. Lee; the late Sen. Vernon Malone; former Representatives Rick Glazier, and James H. Langdon, Jr.; late Representatives Linda P. Johnson and Douglas Yongue; education leaders John Dornan and Bill McNeal; and business leader Ann B. Goodnight.

The award exemplifies the commitment of the NCASA to continue their mission of advocating for our state's educators and the numerous school employees who help support North Carolina public schools.

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