

Request for Remote Public Input for House Select Committee on COVID-19 Public Comments Report - LINC

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
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| 03/31/2020 03:38 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr Geoffrey Santoliquido | Please implement MEDICAID for those without health insurance immediately. Restore unemployment benefits to earlier levels in place prior to the cutbacks. |
| 03/31/2020 03:46 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Mariana Gamble | <p>I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.</p> <p>We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state’s unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to. ALSO: The NC Legislature needs to expand Medicaid now!</p> |
| 03/31/2020 03:57 PM | Economic Support Working Group | CPA Michael Mitchell | Will the interest on tax returns due 4/15/2020 be forgiven through new legislation like the Feds under their COVID-19 stimulus acts? My e-mail is mike@mdmitchellcpa.com. My cell is 910-964-2632. Thank you! |
| 03/31/2020 04:19 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Pam Bloom | <p>North Carolina’s economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p> |
| 03/31/2020 05:37 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ryan Franz | I am wondering if North Carolina will do the same as other states and offer state provided grants to local small businesses. We have a restaurant and wanted to apply for a state grant (similar to IL,CA,CO) and many others have. I attempted to contact the governs office but no one was there to answer before 330. Thank you for all of your hard work at this time. |
| 03/31/2020 06:57 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Jeff Tuson | I am writing to ask you to take care of ALL North Carolinians in this unprecedented crisis. |

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| | | | <p>Whatever measures you put in place, please focus first on people and families whose work life was suddenly upended. People need unemployment insurance and paid sick leave for their own sake and for the sake of their co-workers and the general public. I personally know several people who suddenly lost jobs and consequently their health insurance. They need to be protected and assured ongoing access to health care coverage.</p> <p>We also need to provide testing and treatment to anyone who needs it, not just those who can afford to pay for it. Doing this will benefit all of us.</p> <p>North Carolinians need to work together as unified society to combat this virus and associated economic disruption. Let's not blame those who are out of work with insufficient savings to weather this "storm" of unknown duration. Let's support them so we come out stronger and more unified. North Carolina has a rainy day fund. If ever there was a time to put this fund to use it is now.</p> <p>Thank you for considering my opinion.</p> <p>Message North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p> |
| 03/31/2020 07:17 PM | Economic Support Working Group | NERISSA RIVERA | |
| 03/31/2020 07:42 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr. John Cross | Please act swiftly to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now will bring billions in federal funding, and make sure that people who lose jobs can still get affordable health coverage to stay healthy, and be ready to work again after the crisis is over. Thank you. |
| 03/31/2020 08:28 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Beth Bargar | You will need to allowed reopening of hair care salons soon. Make them adhere to stringent restrictions and take appointments only without accompanying friends or family. This is actually an essential service. You should limit services to haircuts and dry only, not allowing time-consuming colorings, perms, nails or massages |
| 03/31/2020 09:26 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Jason Potts | The general assembly needs to get off recess and get back to work fixing the unemployment iniquities here in nc .start with spending some od the 4 billion in the unemployment reserves to help the people in this time of need who need unemployment |
| 03/31/2020 09:31 PM | Economic Support | Priscilla Stowe | Please get our front end persons the supplies and extra man power they need .,So we can |

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| | Working Group | | <p>get this Virus in control and please have everyone that is not a believe to sit and look at the video where they are carrying bodies to the refrigerated truck with a forklift and remind them these people died alone</p> <p>No family member was allowed to assist with the patient</p> <p>Thanks</p> |
| 04/01/2020 07:01 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Kari Thatcher | <p>We need to freeze mortgage and rent payments, not merely delay evictions and foreclosures until this is over.</p> <p>We also need to expand Medicaid eligibility, raise minimum wage/tie it to cost of living, and pay all essential workers hazard pay.</p> <p>Many essential workers in service sectors are in jobs that do not offer health insurance to their part time folks. While they may be working close to 40 hours at this point, due to low wages, they're still struggling to make ends meet and still uninsured. This is unjust (and unsafe for the public when it comes to customer service jobs).</p> <p>Paid sick time needs to be available for ALL workers, and it should be usable to care for self and any family member, not only children.</p> <p>Stop requiring state employees to get a doctor's note to use their sick time. It wastes valuable resources to send them to the doctor if they're only showing mild symptoms &/or if they are staying home for a known health condition (vs a COVID-19 symptoms).</p> <p>Raise the resource limits for SNAP, TANF, and Medicaid eligibility, and for Medicaid Special Assistance for Assisted Living/Skilled Nursing.</p> <p>Make unemployment insurance available to people using Tax ID numbers, not only SSNs.</p> <p>Thank you for taking these comments and policy suggestions seriously.</p> <p>Lives are at stake due to economic hardship, and now is the time to act.</p> |
| 04/01/2020 08:03 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr TD Knapp | <p>Gun stores should not be closed during this emergency. People have a right and expectation to be able to protect themselves, their families, and their property. The closing of gun stores shows the bias and political agenda of the leftist politicians.</p> |
| 04/01/2020 08:30 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Jennifer Marshall | <p>Unemployment insurance got gobsmeaked by this mess. Because I am a tipped worker and low income, I am sitting here waiting with \$23 in the bank. I spent my savings on stocking up on 3 weeks of supplies and food and prepaying bilss like the rent and car insurance. Either update the current system or have servers on standby to handle the numbers. Processing calls and applications would be a great telecommute job, even if only temporarily. We can do better than this current debacle. It's the first and I'm totally broke and scared to even check the website. No news, no payment, no update, no way to make contact. I'm more scared of starving than the virus. Technology and the ability to harness it for service is something that NC should be better at so we don't have to worry about benefits while told to stay home. And we are a State that has manufacturing capabilities- we should be making masks and ppe for folks.</p> |
| 04/01/2020 09:08 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Nicole Netzel | <p>It is important to me that NC continues to enforce social distancing and takes measures to address instances where this recommendation is not followed. NC needs to establish release criteria for folks in jail and prison to allow for many to be released. NC needs to quickly update the online unemployment application to reflect the new federal law. The NCGA should pass a budget that includes Medicaid expansion and protects our residents from medical debt and ensures access to medical resources. I work for a statewide human services non-profit and try desperately to help folks folks fill the gaps created or</p> |

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| 04/01/2020 09:23 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Jin Adams Parker | <p>ignored by our leadership in this state.</p> <p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> |
| 04/01/2020 10:11 AM | Health Care Working Group | Ms. Michelle Hughes | <p>Dear Speaker Moore and members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19,</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to recommend policy priorities that will support our state's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Due to the word limits on this public web portal, we will submit a more detailed version of this letter to you via email with the specifics of this proposal.</p> <p>The 76 undersigned organizations from across North Carolina deeply appreciate your service in a time of crisis, and your proactive response by convening the House Select Committee on COVID-19. Together we urge you to act swiftly to enact policies that will ensure the well-being of our state's children and their families, and help us all to recover as quickly as possible once the crisis is over.</p> <p>While our state has certainly experienced challenging times before, we have never been asked to rise to a challenge of this magnitude. We are in a time of unprecedented danger, to our health and economy, and we ask that your legislative actions be proportional to the dire challenge before us.</p> <p>We respectfully submit the following priorities for children and families, and urge you to enact them as quickly as possible:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enact a \$125 million Child Care Emergency Economic Support Package, put forth by the NC Early Education Coalition, to assure the availability of emergency child care and prevent the collapse of North Carolina's early education system. 2. Ensure that children and families are not hungry by appropriating emergency funding, and waiving restrictions for food relief programs during this public health crisis. 3. Enhance North Carolina's technology infrastructure to enroll and provide relief services virtually and efficiently. This includes allocating funding for NCDHHS to strengthen the online application process for public benefit programs, and eliminating state restrictions on the ability of local governments to invest in broadband infrastructure. |

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| | | | <p>4. Protect the safety of children and youth involved in the foster care system.</p> <p>5. Ensure that the 110,000 NC children on NC Health Choice get uninterrupted health coverage during this crisis, and cut red tape by merging NC Health Choice with Medicaid.</p> <p>Finally and critically, we join the NC Health Care Association, Care4Carolina, and hundreds of health systems and business leaders across the state in calling on the NC General Assembly to immediately:</p> <p>6. Do everything in your power to cover North Carolina's uninsured, including accepting the federal funds to expand the NC Medicaid program.</p> <p>COVID-19 is unlike any health crisis our state and country has experienced before. Over a million people in North Carolina are facing a pandemic with no health insurance whatsoever. The financial impacts may be devastating for families, and for our hospitals and health systems. Your action would immediately unlock \$3 billion in federal funding to North Carolina's health systems to fight COVID-19 and promote economic recovery.</p> <p>Thank you for your work, and for the opportunity to share these recommendations with you. We stand ready to assist you with further information and support regarding all of the areas discussed above.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Michelle Hughes, Executive Director NC Child Raleigh, NC</p> <p>A Better Chance A Better Community (ABC2) Chester B. Williams Enfield, NC</p> <p>A Safe Place Child Enrichment Center Inc Kimberly Shaw Raleigh, NC</p> <p>Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC Elaine Nell Pfafftown, NC</p> <p>Ahoskie Pediatrics Beverly Edwards, MD Ahoskie, NC</p> <p>American Association of University Women-North Carolina Dr. Margie Maddox Raleigh, NC and Greensboro, NC</p> |

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| | | American Association of University Women, Orange-Durham Branch Michele Hoyman, Chapel Hill, NC | |
| | | Anson County Partnership for Children Caroline M. Goins Wadesboro, NC | |
| | | Cambridge Academy Suzanne H Studdard Reidsville, NC | |
| | | Child Care Services Association Marsha Basloe Chapel Hill, NC | |
| | | Child First Diane Britz Wilmington, NC | |
| | | Children First/Communities in Schools of Buncombe County Greg Borom Asheville, NC | |
| | | The Children's Alliance of Mecklenburg County Jenny Harbin Charlotte, NC | |
| | | Children's Center of Northwest NC Robin Testerman Dobson, NC | |
| | | Children's Collaborative of Buncombe County Sarah Vial Asheville, NC | |
| | | Children's Home Society of NC Jamaica Pfister Statewide | |
| | | Church Women United—Wake/Raleigh Norma Marti Raleigh, NC | |
| | | Communities Supporting Schools of Wayne County Selena Jordan Bennett | |

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| | | Goldsboro, NC | |
| | | Cone Health Foundation Susan Shumaker, President Greensboro, NC | |
| | | Council for Children's Rights Heather Johnson Charlotte, NC | |
| | | Creative Play Preschool Shanita Beard Charlotte, NC | |
| | | Culture and Language Childcare Dominique Farley Durham, NC | |
| | | Elinvar Patti Gillenwater Raleigh, NC | |
| | | Equality North Carolina Ames Simmons Raleigh, NC | |
| | | Evolve Early Learning Corrie Price Asheville, NC | |
| | | First United Methodist Child Development Center Janice Price Charlotte, NC | |
| | | Foster Village Charlotte Sloan Crawford Charlotte, NC | |
| | | The Goddard School Brier Creek Fathema Matcheswala Raleigh, NC | |
| | | The Goddard School Chapel Hill Ashish Tripathi Chapel Hill, NC | |
| | | The Goddard School | |

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| | | Mehul Desai Durham, NC | |
| | | The Goddard School Desai Raleigh, NC | |
| | | Health Care Justice NC Jessica Schorr Saxe Charlotte, NC | |
| | | Interfaith Initiative for Social Justice Ron Katz Asheville, NC | |
| | | John Rex Endowment Kellan Moore, President & CEO Raleigh, NC | |
| | | Justice Kids Academy Malaysia Prince Charlotte, NC | |
| | | KidsNeed2Parents Sheila Peltzer Charlotte, NC | |
| | | Learning Together Kathy Peterson Raleigh, NC | |
| | | LIFESPAN Inc Lynn Crabtree Burlington and Statesville, NC | |
| | | Lisa's Kiddiegarten Lisa Crite Brevard, NC | |
| | | Little Believers Academy Cassandra Brooks Clayton, NC | |
| | | Maggie's Outreach Community Economic Development Center Ophelia Ray Raeford, NC | |

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| | | MomsRising Beth Messersmith Durham, NC | |
| | | Mountain Community Health Partnership Tim Evans Burnsville, NC | |
| | | National Association of Social Workers, North Carolina Valerie Arendt Raleigh, NC | |
| | | National Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health Dr. Lynda Gargan Rockville, MD | |
| | | National Prevention Science Coalition to Improve Lives Diana Fishbein Chapel Hill, NC | |
| | | NC Association of Community Development Corporations Susan Perry Cole Rocky Mount, NC | |
| | | NC Early Education Coalition Michele Rivest Chapel Hill, NC | |
| | | NC Justice Center Adam Svolto Raleigh, NC | |
| | | NC Pediatric Society Elizabeth Hudgins Raleigh, NC | |
| | | NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence Sherry Honeycutt Everett Durham, NC | |
| | | North Carolina PTA Harold Dixon Raleigh, North Carolina | |
| | | New Beginnings Previs Foster Warrenton, NC | |

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| | | New Hanover County NAACP Deborah Dicks Maxwell Wilmington, NC | |
| | | New Hanover County Resiliency Task Force Mebane Boyd Wilmington, NC | |
| | | Noah's Ark Children's Center at Masonboro Baptist Tracy Brewer Wilmington, NC | |
| | | North Carolina Alliance for Health Morgan Wittman Gramann Durham, NC | |
| | | North Carolina Council of Churches Jennifer Copeland Raleigh, NC | |
| | | NC National Organization for Women Gailya Paliga Raleigh, NC | |
| | | The Parenting PATH Elizabeth M. Miller Winston-Salem, NC | |
| | | Partners in Development Kathleen Putnam Chapel Hill, NC | |
| | | Prevent Child Abuse NC Melea Rose-Waters Raleigh, NC | |
| | | Randolph County Partnership for Children Lisa Hayworth Asheboro, NC | |
| | | Reimage Child Development Center Jennifer Bowers Winterville, NC | |
| | | Reinvestment Partners Neal Curran | |

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| | | | <p>Durham, NC</p> <p>SAFEchild Cristin DeRonja Raleigh, NC</p> <p>Toxic Free NC Alexis Luckey Durham, NC</p> <p>Track Out Kidz LLC Alice Nelson Raleigh, NC</p> <p>Trusted Parents Nikia Bye Charlotte, NC</p> <p>Upper Room Christian Preschool Crystal Amanchukwu Raleigh, NC</p> <p>United Voices for Education Ceretha Sherrill Charlotte, NC</p> <p>Verner Center for Early Learning Marcia Whitney Asheville</p> <p>Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, Triangle Branch Miriam Thompson Chapel Hill and Carrboro, NC</p> <p>Young Explorers Family Childcare Home Nakita Douglas Wendell, NC</p> |
| 04/01/2020 10:30 AM | Health Care Working Group | Mr. Gary Ander | Now is the time to move ahead with Medicaid Expansion and support those without insurance and the medical providers that will be taking care of them in this crisis. Your support of expansion now will provide the economic support for these health care systems, especially in rural areas, which are so greatly needed. |
| 04/01/2020 10:57 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Theresa Joan Rosenberg | Please make Medicaid expansion a priority for State expenditure. The federal match makes this a "bargain" and NC will gain in improved health for thousands - a healthier workforce, fewer ill workers, healthier students, teachers and aides in every profession, |
| 04/01/2020 11:32 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Josephine Corro | Review and pass the People's Platform for Social and Economic Justice https://survivalandbeyond.info/platform/ |

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| 04/01/2020 11:53 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Queen Degraphenreid | Encourage our North Carolina legislators to move forward on passing the Medicaid Expansion program to 500,000 citizens of North Carolina. It appears to me that this is a necessary action to help further control COVID-19 to our medical fragile and many low-income, to include our working poor, citizens of our state. |
| 04/01/2020 12:04 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Mary C. Williams | Please expand Medicaid now! |
| 04/01/2020 01:15 PM | Economic Support Working Group | David Huskins | On behalf of the state's hospitality industry, there needs to be forbearance for the industry on the upcoming ABC Permit renewals due no later than April 30. Proposed: allow current ABC Permittees to keep their permits active for an extended period of time after April 30, with deferred payment of renewal fees. |
| 04/01/2020 02:13 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Jessica Burroughs | <p>Dear Speaker Moore,</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership during this crisis. As members of the North Carolina Anti-Hunger Coalition, we appreciate the opportunity you have provided for us to submit suggestions to the House Select Committee on COVID-19.</p> <p>As you know, hunger was a pressing issue across our state long before the COVID-19 public health crisis. According to the USDA's 2017 report on food insecurity, one in five children in North Carolina struggled with hunger, and nearly 590,000 North Carolina households did not have enough to eat each day. Due to the widespread economic disruption this crisis is causing, we expect this number to grow dramatically in the coming weeks, as some emergency food providers report an increase of up to 70% in the number of clients served in just the past three weeks.</p> <p>During this time of great uncertainty and stress, it is paramount that we work together to lift the barriers to food access faced by these families and prevent additional North Carolinians from going hungry. We applaud the swift action you have taken to mitigate the harm this crisis will have on the people in our state.</p> <p>We recognize that the situation on the ground is continuously changing, and that these recommendations may need to be updated and revised. We offer the following initial recommendations to complement emerging policy and fill damaging gaps as the COVID-19 response is operationalized.</p> <p>We ask the State to provide an additional \$6 million in immediate funding to the North Carolina Feeding America food banks. This funding must be flexible to allow food banks to purchase the additional food required to respond to the crisis due to the closing of schools and layoffs caused by the appropriate government-required closings. In addition, these funds should help support the management, storage, and transportation of these critical food resources as well as additional labor required to manage the growing need and the loss of community volunteers (a large pool of which are older adults) resulting from social distancing requirements.</p> <p>To support our farmers, we ask the State to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> work with local officials to ensure farmers markets remain open; allocate additional resources to help farmers comply with CDC recommendations to |

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| | | | <p>ensure the health and safety of farmworkers; advocate for a federal disaster declaration and do so based on revenue losses rather than production losses; utilize funds for a Disaster Loss Program similar to the one instituted for losses caused by Hurricanes Michael and Florence, and allow emergency payments to be based on documentation of revenue for farms that do not have crop reports on file with FSA; increase funding and capacity for the Farm to School program to serve children and families and explore additional public procurement policies that would increase markets for local farmers; buy down interest rates for federal emergency loans; create no-interest loan pools to cover the interest of FSA emergency loans; and create bridge loan programs.</p> |
| | | | <p>We ask the State to continue to supplement SNAP and WIC funding and take other actions to expand access to SNAP and WIC. Specifically, we request that the State provide emergency supplemental SNAP benefits to any participating SNAP household.</p> |
| | | | <p>We ask the State to provide the support necessary to fully operationalize the flexibility and expansion afforded by the federal COVID-19 response to safely and effectively distribute food assistance in alignment with social distancing requirements, including: provide funding to operationalize P-EBT by providing meal-replacement benefits through SNAP for households with children who would otherwise receive free- or reduced-price meals, including working with the Department of Public Instruction to provide the benefit to children who are not currently SNAP recipients; provide funding to ensure the capacity each county needs to process new applications and fully administer SNAP and WIC programs while employees work remotely, and funding for frontline employees to continue service while limiting face-to-face contact with the public; support School Nutrition feeding sites to provide infant-and-toddler appropriate meals and whole milk for children who rely on meals provided at their childcare center, including those who are on the waiting list for the childcare subsidy; and remove state-level barriers to the elimination of asset tests,</p> |
| | | | <p>We ask the State to provide funding to child nutrition programs, with maximum flexibility for the funds to be used to purchase food or for general operational needs.</p> |
| | | | <p>We ask the State to close the health insurance coverage gap to ensure all North Carolinians have access to care.</p> |
| | | | <p>We ask the State to take steps to ensure all North Carolinians have access to broadband and technology so they may access food assistance programs and purchase groceries online, or continue to work or study from home. Specifically, we ask the State to: amend funding for the GREAT Program to provide \$30 million over 5 years; pass the FIBER NC Act to remove barriers that prevent or inhibit local governments from partnering with private providers; ensure all students have access to a computer; and increase access to technology for small businesses who are adjusting to provide virtual</p> |

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| | | | <p>services.</p> <p>We appreciate your urgent attention to reducing hunger & food insecurity, and implore you to take immediate action to implement the recommendations outlined in this letter. We are available both to communicate information and updates and to provide support in the implementation of these recommendations. Please contact coalition member Jessica Burroughs at Jessica@momsrising.org with follow up questions or comments.</p> <p>Sincerely, The North Carolina Anti-Hunger Coalition Members: Action Pathways Second Harvest Food Bank of Southeast NC End Hunger Durham Food Bank of the Albemarle Food Bank of Central & Eastern North Carolina Inter-Faith Food Shuttle Loaves & Fishes MANNA FoodBank MomsRising North Carolina Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics North Carolina Alliance for Health NC Child North Carolina Justice Center Second Harvest Food Bank of Metrolina Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina</p> |
| 04/01/2020 03:49 PM | Economic Support Working Group | David Huskins | The workgroup needs to keep front and center the issue of insurance companies skillfully avoiding claim eligibility for business interruption during pandemics requiring a declaration of national or state emergency. |
| 04/01/2020 03:49 PM | Economic Support Working Group | David Huskins | The workgroup needs to keep front and center the issue of insurance companies skillfully avoiding claim eligibility for business interruption during pandemics requiring a declaration of national or state emergency. |
| 04/01/2020 07:00 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Mrs. Marci Harvey | My husband is a rental property owner and I worry that people are not paying rent because they know they can not be evicted. I fear the worst of our time will be in a few months, when people are far behind on rent, yet we can not file an eviction order. Is there a way a landlord can accept partial rent but still keep up with legal proceedings if tenants do not pay rent? The tenants we have now that need court documents filed have not gotten behind because of Covid-19. They are behind from the end of 2019 and my husband has been trying to work with them and give them time. But our mortgage companies still require payments. |
| 04/01/2020 07:09 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Mrs Gailya Paliga | Many women are paid poorly, and don't have health care or other benefits at work, like paid sick leave or family leave. Low paying roles include home health aides, child-care workers, retail cashiers, waitresses and hotel housekeepers. According to the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), women make up two-thirds of the roughly 23.8 million workers in the 40 lowest-paying jobs in America. Over the past month, some of these industries have lost thousands of jobs due to the economic impact of the coronavirus. And the pandemic is |

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| | | | <p>exposing how stingy North Carolina is with unemployment benefits and how it could pass further laws that would help women and families, like for paid sick leave and family leave.</p> <p>People can file for unemployment benefits, which were slashed by the NCGA and former Governor Pat McCrory in 2013 by about one third and also reduced how long people can collect any aid. Nearly 90% of employees who lose their jobs are denied unemployment benefits in North Carolina! And because of the coronavirus pandemic, hundreds of thousands of people are losing their jobs – some losses will be temporary, but many may be permanent as some businesses will not survive the shutdowns as well.</p> <p>Because of this excessive rejection rate, few people will qualify for the extra \$600 a week that would be sent to people who have already been deemed eligible for unemployment by their home state.</p> <p>From March 16 through March 31, the state processed 332,773 unemployment claims. Approximately 87 percent (290,703) of those were COVID-19 related, according to the N.C. Department of Commerce and Division of Employment Security (DES).</p> <p>The NCGA could restore unemployment benefits and make them available for more people losing their jobs through due to coronavirus shutdowns. The benefits of money paid out to people ripple through the community. People would be able to take care of themselves, and also will have money to spend at local and national businesses. Lack of money for people means no or little money for everyone.</p> <p>Also, women make up 75% of hospital workers, 93% of child care workers, and 66% of cashiers and retail salespeople in grocery stores, according to NWLC. These are all considered essential work for now. What if these women get sick themselves? They need paid sick leave, or they'll spread it. Few low wage workers like child care workers and those in grocery stores can afford to lose their job in NC. How can they take care of family members, a task more likely to fall on women? They need paid family leave.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the NCGA has access to 3.2 billion dollars in rainy day funds that could help people and communities through this crisis. And they have the power to adjust or restore unemployment benefits.</p> <p>House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Phil Berger need to call for a special session to deal with this pandemic and help North Carolina workers in general. The pandemic rages on and helping people by making more eligible for unemployment benefits, making unemployment go longer, and providing paid sick leave and paid family leave for workers will help North Carolinians and businesses across the state.</p> |
| 04/01/2020 07:37 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ana Pardo | <p>Dear members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19,</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of the North Carolina Families Care Coalition, a broad, statewide coalition of organizations focused on strong family-friendly workplace policies, to share our recommendations for the General Assembly's policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our recommendations, which are of a length that could not be submitted</p> |

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| | | | <p>directly through this portal, are outlined in a letter than can be accessed here:</p> <p>https://ncfamiliescare.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NC-Families-Care-COVID-19-recommendations-final.pdf</p> <p>Our recommendations outline both short-term, urgent actions the legislature can take to help stop the spread of illness and protect North Carolinians who are still going to the workplace, as well as longer term steps to help make North Carolina more prepared in the face of future public health crises.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact us with follow-up questions or if you have a need for additional information. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you in crafting policies that support working North Carolinians and their families in this difficult time. We can be reached at the email addresses below.</p> <p>Thank you for all that you and all of those in state government are doing to get us through this challenging time. It is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Ana Pardo, Co-Convener, NC Families Care Coalition, Ana.Pardo@ncjustice.org Beth Messersmith, Co-Convener, NC Families Care Coalition, Beth@momsrising.org</p> |
| 04/01/2020 10:59 PM | Economic Support Working Group | limit people in Stores Francine Massiello | <p>Waaaay too many people at Walmart, Home Depot, Lowe's, supermarket, etc at one time. Demand a Limit (like 25) in the store at one time be ENFORCED at stores. I hear the parking lots have been insane with people shopping unnecessarily. Also, start issuing tickets, if out and people don't have a letter that they are going to work or pharmacy. Too many are NOT taking this seriously. FORCE people to stay in their homes.</p> |
| 04/02/2020 12:21 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW | <p>North Carolina must raise the minimum wage statewide to at least \$15 so that people aren't having to choose between housing or medicine, or food or paying rent. Especially now, when so many North Carolinians have lost jobs due to COVID-19, a living wage would afford people more income to use in cases of emergency.</p> |
| 04/02/2020 04:46 AM | Economic Support Working Group | 1965 Jody Morrow | <p>What can be done to help the workers ages 17 to 23 who were left out of the stimulus package? I know several young people who work hard trying to pay for school, cars, and insurance. They struggle to be responsible to help their families by providing for their needs. These are a HUGE proportion of the restaurant workers who are out of work. Just because their parents pay their insurance and maintain their permanent address and can claim them as a dependent does not mean their parents can afford to pick up their Bill's during this economic disaster. Many still have to pay their school rent. Shame on the politicians for not helping this group. Please do something to help them. Remember most of this group is of voting age. They need more help than children under 17. Plus they have sacrificed more giving up senior years, proms, summer trips, and graduations. I am not asking for myself or even for my family as it does not effect us. But I see my friends and their kids suffering. DO SOMETHING TO FIX THIS PLEASE.</p> |
| 04/02/2020 08:33 AM | Economic Support | BCBS of NC Adele R | <p>BCBS of NC says they will not give any consideration to deferring payments during this</p> |

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| | Working Group | Thevaos | epidemic. I was forced out of work by the State of NC. I cannot pay my bills. My BCBS is \$800 a month |
| 04/02/2020 08:40 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Juliet Cooke | What will you be doing about accrued interest on taxes due on Apr 15 if postponed to July 15? |
| 04/02/2020 09:43 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Marlyne Tyre | I am elderly and have gone so far as to contact the Governor's office. Was told to contact county office and county office said to call state! We seniors need our food benefits on the 1st not the middle of the month when things will be worse! Please ask county offices to comply with our request |
| 04/02/2020 12:41 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Rheba Heggs | Please expand Medicaid and cover the uninsured. It's a matter of maintaining the public health, |
| 04/02/2020 12:54 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Amy Oliphant | "Please act swiftly to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now will bring billions in federal funding, and make sure that people who lose jobs can still get affordable health coverage to stay healthy, and be ready to work again after the crisis is over. Thank you." |
| 04/02/2020 03:09 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Shel Anderson | <p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response. We must make sure our people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported. I am particularly concerned about the really small businesses, and I hope you can find means to keep them alive and serving the community.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy!</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p> |
| 04/02/2020 03:21 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Patrick Quinn | What happened to the comment I made on 03/31/2020? That comment was more extensive than this one. The point of my comment was NC should do everything possible to increase and even mandate mask usage and to target social isolation through swab and serological testing. We must know who is currently ill, currently asymptomatic but still infected, and who is producing antibodies. Without these in place we will end up suffering through a much more protracted social isolation program that will destroy much more economic activity, than would be necessary with use of testing and masks. |
| 04/02/2020 06:30 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Dean Belk | Being a small business owner that employees 10 full time and one part time employee, what is the state willing to do to help. We pay for complete healthcare for all full time employees and full family for 3 of those. Our business had fell off 40%. We can't keep all employees or at full paid for more than a month. We need help from the State! |
| 04/02/2020 08:38 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Dana Hagele | It is shocking that our schools are concentrating on the development of feeding stations and bus routes to drop off food. This pandemic has underscored the extreme food insecurity... and even hunger... that exists in all North Carolina communities. |
| 04/02/2020 09:18 PM | Economic Support | Mrs Rebecca Burmester | It is imperative that NC expand Medicaid at this tumultuous time. |

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| 04/02/2020 10:35 PM | Working Group Economic Support Working Group | Miss Camryn Pate | <p>I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to COVID-19 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drives state level dollars to families and people and ensures that our public programs – from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services – have what they need to respond to this crisis. This includes supporting small businesses like child care centers and retailers. • Fixes North Carolina’s unemployment insurance, ensures that *ALL* working people have access to paid sick leave, and provides support to children and families who need help putting food on the table and finding a home to shelter in. • Makes sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies they need to face this virus safely; broadens access to free testing and treatment; and gives everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home without having to worry about loss of income or being able to meet their basic needs. This includes ensuring that all people have income or wage replacement. • Closes the health insurance coverage gap, provides access to care for *ALL* people regardless of immigration status, and makes sure resources and support are directed to those people who often get left out in policy responses. <p>I also ask that any response not give tax breaks to large companies without accountability to protect workers. The people must come first!</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> |
| 04/03/2020 09:08 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Nina Kilbride | <p>Please enact a competitive virtual notary statute.</p> <p>It's a public health problem: failure to implement e-notary for wills means lawyers and clients will become vectors of disease as they plan for COVID-19.</p> <p>It's a business problem: for transactions lawyers must recommend our clients use other states' notaries that have national reach, which is going to be bad for future business in NC. We should be able to use NC notaries at this time and going forward.</p> <p>Please copy one of the many good virtual notary statutes already in existence in VA, TX, or MN, for example.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> |
| 04/03/2020 10:34 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Rebecca LeClair | <p>I would like to suggest that committee members review the following article published in Forbes on March 29, 2020:</p> <p>"Group Testing Is Our Surefire Secret Weapon Against Coronavirus," by Laurence Kotlikoff, professor of economics at Boston University. He says, in part:</p> <p>"Group testing all Americans every day is our surefire secret weapon to save potentially millions of lives and immediately restart the economy. Group testing is a super efficient way of finding out who's infected and who's not. Iceland's doing it. Israel's doing it. Even Nebraska's doing it. The President needs to implement this policy immediately with the help of the military. It's that simple."</p> |

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| | | | <p>and</p> <p>"There is now a 15-minute coronavirus test. What we need to do is group-household test each day. The method is simple. A testing mobile, manned by military personnel, would come to your street early each morning. The members of your household and maybe another 9 (the best number is yet to be determined) would be invited to provide a swab sample. All the swabs of all the households would be collectively used to test if any of the swabs was positive. Fifteen minutes later your group of households would either be cleared to go to work and frequent stores, restaurants, and other establishments for the day or not. If you're cleared, you'd get a green bracelet that would automatically change to red after 24 hours. Those with green bracelets would be returned to normal society. If your group of households tested positive, subgroup testing would be done, on the spot, until it was discovered which of your group's 10 households was infected and which weren't. Those households that were infected (had one or more infected members) would need to go into quarantine."</p> <p>Thank you for your work on these important issues.</p> |
| 04/03/2020 11:47 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr. Lowell Simon | <p>Many of us are working to feed people in need. However we are being limited to small purchases of things like potatoes, rice and other products. Could there be some sort of official exemption for charitable organizations when we are buying for multiple families?</p> |
| 04/03/2020 02:20 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Sanda Ricci | <p>ou and your staff are very busy with the impact of COVID-19 on people's health and the economy, but there is a third rail: Please google to read Professor/Researcher Jem Bendell (University of Cambria) "Deep Adaptation" paper "The Climate for Corona – our warming world is more vulnerable for pandemic".</p> <p>Bendell calls this pandemic "another step toward societal collapse". In 2019 both the Washington Post and BBC News reported over 1 million animal and insect species going extinct.</p> <p>The paper explains the link between the worsening global warming and link to pandemics like Covid-19, SARS, and Ebola. It clearly describes the terrible stress our environment is under from man-made pollution so that viruses now jump from animals to humans and vice versa.</p> <p>Bendell's paper should be required reading for everyone but especially leaders. Ironically, on March 27th, EPA loosened environmental restrictions using Covid-19 as the justification polluters can use to pollute with less fear of being sued. Currently, Duke Energy is asking for more taxpayer money to clean up their messes and pay for plants and fossil fuel-carrying pipelines that will never be used and are extremely destructive to the environment.</p> <p>To many of us, the lies communicated and the actions knowingly being committed for greed by oil companies, Utility Monopolies, by the current Administration/EPA and the Media particularly FOX News, are crimes against humanity. The truth about the Global Warming impact is in Jem Bendell's and other scientific papers that the Trump</p> |

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| 04/03/2020 03:45 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr Toni Pietrantoni | <p>Administration tries to suppress. "Our house is on fire"...says 15 year old Greta Thuneberg. Now I ask you,What will you do?</p> <p>To whom it may concern.</p> |
| 04/03/2020 08:48 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Temporary housing Renckens | <p>I recently contacted my DMV office to obtain an extension or exemption in light of current events for my 2016 Ford F-150 NC safety and emissions which is due 04/30/2020. I was told this could not be done and I should contact my legislators to voice my concerns. In light of what is occurring, the social distancing request and the stay-in-place directive from local and state leaders it would seem counterintuitive to force someone to travel into a public place and have someone sit in their vehicle where you or they could transmit the COVID-19 virus which we know to be very contagious. In short, I am asking that the citizens of NC be provided a reprieve from needing to visit an inspection location and complete inspections until after this situation passes.</p> <p>Kind Regards,</p> <p>I think once residents can be tested for COVID and cleared we should set up a coalition of families willing to take in families temporarily that are at risk of homelessness due to the crisis. I would be willing to sponsor a family temporarily if they could be cleared medically at some point.</p> |
| 04/04/2020 12:32 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mrs. Mary Joan Florence | <p>The regular people of North Carolina (and the rest of the country) are hurting. We need targeted prevention and mitigation efforts rather than open-ended one-size-fits-all stay-at-home orders. Many essential industries are still operating, but more industries are completely shut down. Restaurants and bars have been closed by executive order. Service industry employees dependent on tips and gig workers are facing a sudden loss of income. The "non-essential" retail industry is closed, and all their employees are sitting at home. Factories and their employees are idled because there are no retail outlets for their product. The tourism and hospitality industry have no customers because no one can travel. Government loans and grants and unemployment insurance can provide relief for so long when our economy is producing nothing. The potential morbidity and mortality from poverty and despair must be weighed against the potential morbidity and mortality of COVID-19.</p> <p>We must start a targeted reopening of businesses with strict sanitary measures as soon as possible. Cutting lawns has been deemed essential, but not cutting hair for some reason. Hair salons, barbershops, and nail salons already have rules about sanitation. Implement additional emergency sanitation rules such as hand-washing upon entrance, occupancy limits, social distancing between customers, and masks for employees and customers. Do the same with retail stores. Let them install hand-washing stations or rent portable hand-washing stations and install hand sanitizer dispensers throughout their stores and at cash registers. Provide protection for employees who must be close to customers. Let restaurants keep customers 6' apart and require employees to wear masks. When we get these retail and service outlets open again, factory workers, gig workers, and childcare workers will soon be back at work too.</p> |

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| | | | It is going to be a tough time. The whole world's economy is shutting down. North Carolina can follow the example of places like Taiwan, Singapore, and South Korea and carefully reopen our economy with targeted solutions. |
| 04/04/2020 01:54 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Frankie Denise Powell | Those essential businesses should have oversight regarding 6 feet distancing, patrons in masks, and quantities of sanitizer. Practices should have oversight and consequences. |
| 04/04/2020 07:08 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Amy Dahl | I urge you to give priority attention to agriculture and the systems by which food is produced and distributed. Currently our local farmers are in a bind: they do not have the legal Mexican labor they normally rely on, and restaurants and other buyers are shut down, so their market has evaporated. Family farms and large chicken and hog operations have different needs and stresses. It is urgent that they receive the support they need both to keep producing this year, and to survive into the future. The whole world is affected by this pandemic. We cannot assume that we can import food to replace what we lose the capacity to produce. Please act now to support and maintain NC agriculture, both small and large scale! |
| 04/04/2020 08:38 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Kate Green | My concern is for Farmers who need workers to harvest crops. My thought is to have non-violent offenders released to work the fields. In return, they would be released on probation and if they kept probation rules, their records would be expunged. That way they could seek employment without a record. |
| 04/04/2020 06:50 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Karen Porter | If we ever needed expanded unemployment compensation, it is now to protect all our citizens in this time of pandemic war. Please act now to give this protection to all our workers. |
| 04/04/2020 08:12 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Annie Caulkins | At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. |
| 04/04/2020 10:00 PM | Economic Support Working Group | ELIZABETH YOUNG | At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. |
| 04/05/2020 12:38 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Lucy Gorham | Unemployment insurance is one of the most effective means to stabilize economies during an economic downturn. Unfortunately, North Carolina's Unemployment Insurance |

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| | | | <p>system is less able to keep workers from being pushed into deeper economic hardship or stabilize the economy. Achieving the greatest economic boost from UI requires that the NC General Assembly increase the number of workers able to access the program and improve the adequacy of the benefits to replace lost wages. Legislators should also return the provision that allowed people to access the system if they face illness or must care for a sick family member. Taken together, a comprehensive set of changes to the state's UI policy can ensure that workers aren't disproportionately hurt in this moment and the future. Such changes should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the highest quarter or the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of UI benefits for every worker; Remove the cap of \$350 on maximum UI benefits to calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state; Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available to workers without earnings from work; and Ensure workers can receive UI for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. <p>To avoid worsening the recession we're heading into, these changes will benefit the economy for all of us and help to support workers who have lost jobs due to COVID-19 due to no fault of their own. Thank you.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 08:17 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Elizabeth Gottlin | <p>In the time of pandemic when so many people have lost their income, we need to expand unemployment benefits. The NC Justice Center suggestions below seem reasonable, but please do what you can.</p> <p>Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 08:23 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr Sherene Min | <p>At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> <p>The best ways via government economic support to do that are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. <p>With this temporary economic strain, we can avoid a depression by keeping North Carolinians without income afloat while we restart the economy.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 08:56 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Heiderose Kober | <p>North Carolina has one of the most miserly unemployment protections in the country. At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. 2. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the |

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| | | | <p>average weekly wages in the state. 3. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. 4. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 09:46 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr. Adam Versenyi | <p>I urge you to support unemployment insurance expansion. During this public health and economic crisis it is imperative that we enable North Carolina's citizens ability to meet their most basic needs.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adam Versényi 205 Oleander Road Carrboro, NC 27510</p> |
| 04/05/2020 10:06 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Brenda McCall | I support expansion and upgrade of NC unemployment benefits to assure that all citizens can meet the basic needs for themselves and their families. |
| 04/05/2020 10:12 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr. William Murray | I support this |
| 04/05/2020 10:28 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Marjorie Coward | I support protecting North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. Please eliminate the waiting week. Please make sure that workers receive benefits for 26 weeks. |
| 04/05/2020 10:40 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Gerald Donaldson | NC desperately needs additional state funds for underwriting expanded unemployment benefits during this public health/economic crisis, |
| 04/05/2020 10:46 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Michael Fath | <p>At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, we must protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> <p>Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 10:58 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Christine Frasca | Vote yes |
| 04/05/2020 11:03 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Christine Frasca | Vote yes |
| 04/05/2020 11:05 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Melissa McCullough | <p>WE NEED TO EXPAND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS!! Having families drown in debt or poverty because they cannot work from home is inhumane and counterproductive to the economy. Those benefits will go straight into the economy to landlords and grocery stores and farmers, to help keep them afloat. Also, Jesus said, "that which you do for the least of these, my brothers, you do for Me." That's pretty much NOW, folks ...</p> |
| 04/05/2020 11:30 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Reverend Susan Gladin | Sadly, our state over the past few years has worked actively AGAINST the needs and well-being of our most vulnerable populations. Given the dire emergency we are in and its affect on working people, especially hourly workers, I hope that you will do everything in |

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| | | | your power to take care of those who are unable to work in these (or any) circumstances. |
| 04/05/2020 11:31 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Olympia Stone | I fully support expanding unemployment insurance to help those in need |
| 04/05/2020 11:47 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Linda Dinges | I would like to be able to vote by mail due to Covid 19. |
| 04/05/2020 12:27 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Susanne Vergara | <p>At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> <p>Ways to do this:</p> <p>Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits.</p> <p>Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state.</p> <p>Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available.</p> <p>Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 01:12 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Nancy Callanan | <p>I am writing to in support of measures to expand unemployment insurance during the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. I am specifically supporting the following recommendations of NC Justice Center.</p> <p>Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits.</p> <p>Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state.</p> <p>Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available.</p> <p>Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 01:16 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Eleanor Weston | I am a constituent from Chapel Hill, and I am writing to ask you to expand unemployment insurance for NC residents during this pandemic. In particular, I urge you to follow the recommendations of the NC Justice Center (https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/sound-unemployment-insurance-that-serves-workers-is-critical/), which include removing the waiting so that workers who have lost their jobs recently can receive help more quickly, and allow workers to receive the national standard 26 weeks of UI. |
| 04/05/2020 02:38 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Janet Flowers | Although I am retired, I am deeply troubled and concerned about all of our citizens who are losing their jobs. We must do everything in our power to provide a safety net to these individuals. The health and wellbeing of millions rely upon a financial base which must be met through the actions of our state leaders. Thank you. |
| 04/05/2020 02:55 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Molla Donaldson | Please support Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. It saves lives. |
| 04/05/2020 07:01 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Joy Blevins | As a resident of Chapel Hill, NC and a registered voter, I am writing the Economic Support Working Group members on an individual basis to ask for your support to expand NC's unemployment insurance program to meet national standards and to ensure the economic welfare for those residents in NC who have lost their jobs due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that this pandemic will go on longer than all of us would like, so it is important that the unemployed can support themselves and families during this challenging time by providing food, housing and the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Hunger and housing are non-partisan issues. I am not seriously economically impacted by the pandemic, but I am concerned about all those who cannot afford to support their families, which, in turn, will have an impact on their health and well- |

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| 04/05/2020 07:01 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Joy Blevins | <p>being. If it means raising taxes, so be it. I think our state should be judged by how our legislators make policies that help the least fortunate in our state. Thank you for your support in recommending unemployment policies that are fair and just. There but for the grace of God, go I. I could be struggling to provide for my family or myself.</p> <p>As a resident of Chapel Hill, NC and a registered voter, I am writing the Economic Support Working Group members on an individual basis to ask for your support to expand NC's unemployment insurance program to meet national standards and to ensure the economic welfare for those residents in NC who have lost their jobs due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that this pandemic will go on longer than all of us would like, so it is important that the unemployed can support themselves and families during this challenging time by providing food, housing and the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Hunger and housing are non-partisan issues. I am not seriously economically impacted by the pandemic, but I am concerned about all those who cannot afford to support their families, which, in turn, will have an impact on their health and well-being. If it means raising taxes, so be it. I think our state should be judged by how our legislators make policies that help the least fortunate in our state. Thank you for your support in recommending unemployment policies that are fair and just. There but for the grace of God, go I. I could be struggling to provide for my family or myself.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 08:25 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Claudia Hidalgo Rojas, LMT#11006 | <p>Though many small businesses have consequently been effected by Covid19, Gov. Cooper specifically called on Massage PRACTICES to close down. This left so many of us without income options. Many of us file 1099s or have multi-contractor practices so we don't qualify for unemployment or CARES Act. What do we do? You shut us down and then then gave us zero options except to expose ourselves anyway by getting temporary work. Most of us do not have the income to carry us through this event. You shut us down specifically! What do we do now?</p> |
| 04/05/2020 08:39 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Dwight Rogers | <p>In order to provide for economic well being of many of our citizens and to make sure our economy rebounds quickly from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that the State of North Carolina expand our unemployment insurance program.</p> |
| 04/05/2020 09:23 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Alissa Van Atta | <p>We need to balance things out- for far too long there has been an imbalance of power that puts the money in the pockets of those who are secure. We need to support the ones who have not been given a living wage that hasn't kept up with inflation.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 07:01 AM | Economic Support Working Group | DR Charles Coble | <p>North Carolina should never have approved such restrictive unemployment insurance as we now have in place. It punishes the already punished person, who through no fault of their own, become unemployed. Those who supported the minimal unemployment insurance we now have in NC, seem to assume that people just want a free ride - they seem disbelieving that the self-worth of humans is closely tied to their work and creative contributions. I strongly urge the House Select Committee to support extending unemployment benefits to 26 weeks, which is the national norm. Thousands upon thousands of my fellow citizens in NC are out of work, due to absolutely no fault of their own. Let's help them and do so fast! Their bills have not stopped coming due...and he state economy will be improved by the circulation of these funds, so that we all benefit!</p> |
| 04/06/2020 07:28 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Paula Rochna | <p>Please expand the unemployment services to protect all of us who have no way to earn a living at this time.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 07:52 AM | Economic Support | Rhys Carpenter | <p>Since the Government has required that many people stop people, it has responsibility to</p> |

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| | Working Group | | insure their economic survival. |
| 04/06/2020 08:44 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Lolette Guthrie | Financial help for coop business where there are multiple owners is badly needed. I am 1 of 21 artists who own the Hillsborough Gallery of Arts. All 21 have lost our jobs and the gallery will need financial help to survive since we can't afford to pay for rent, utilities, etc. unless we can sell our art. |
| 04/06/2020 09:09 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ronald Geary | The best way to support the NC economy is to get direct cash resources to those who need it most, including the unemployed. Please expand unemployment worker coverage. |
| 04/06/2020 09:15 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Marilyn Carter | The ability of North Carolinians to meet their basic needs is under extreme challenge as we reach historic levels of unemployment as a direct impact of the COVID-19 crisis. To address this, we need to expand the state's unemployment insurance program and improve how it is offered and communicated to avoid confusion amongst those applying for it. Expanding UI will help ensure that unemployment itself does not further exacerbate the public health crisis. When an unemployed citizen cannot afford their care, they are less likely to seek it. This can impact the spread of the disease amongst family and community members. |
| 04/06/2020 09:17 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Cynthia Henshaw | We must do all we can to expand unemployment insurance to protect our economy and our citizens from the deep recession that is inevitable from shutting down for COVID-19. This is the time to head off what we can - insuring those that lost their jobs and can't find employment will keep our economy running as they will be putting that money back into the economy and help stave off the worst depression that will otherwise occur. This is a no brainer! |
| 04/06/2020 09:32 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr Gerald Meyer | Please recommend expanding Unemployment Compensation to additional weeks so that no worker in this crisis has to worry about losing benefits during this crisis. Uncertainty about income is a very real problem for younger workers who have not had time to develop a savings account or back up for a time of unemployment. Please also expand the eligibility for Unemployment Compensation to those who work as independent contractors/gig workers and have multiple jobs. |
| 04/06/2020 09:35 AM | Economic Support Working Group | MR Charles Burnham | At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. I suggest that we use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits; remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit (calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state); eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available; and, ensure that workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. |
| 04/06/2020 09:45 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Dr. Ellen Cohen | Please consider expanding unemployment insurance eligibility and the length and amount of benefits. So many people are now unemployed that we are in danger of having a population that cannot afford to live without some help. It will take time for the economy to recover enough for people to get jobs again. We cannot afford to let so many people suffer from hunger and home insecurity. |
| 04/06/2020 10:09 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms Cathy Cole | At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. |

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| | | | <p>Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 10:29 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Lucy Britt | <p>I am writing you to urge you to take the following measures to expand access to unemployment insurance in North Carolina: -Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. -Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. -Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. -Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 11:06 AM | Economic Support Working Group | Mr David Tillery | <p>We desperately need to support Unemployment Insurance expansion! I have so many friends who are out of work with the pandemic. These are unprecedented times, we need to help those who are most in need.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 12:25 PM | Economic Support Working Group | MS Beth Gerall | <p>At this time of extreme financial distress due to unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. I ask this committee to: Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Eliminate the waiting week so that funds are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. Thank you!</p> |
| 04/06/2020 12:38 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Andrew Havens | <p>The COVID-19 pandemic has wrought extreme financial distress upon people across North Carolina. It is imperative that we protect the ability of North Carolinians to meet their basic needs through a more robust unemployment insurance program. The General Assembly should consider policy to expand access to the state unemployment insurance program, strengthen the benefits provided, extend the term of eligibility, and reduce the wait to receive critical benefits.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 01:00 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Michele Lynn | <p>I urge you to expand unemployment insurance. At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 01:17 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Patty Courtright | <p>Please expand NC's unemployment insurance program to adequately protect people and their families during the COVID-19 crisis. The people who already are most vulnerable are at highest risk for this virus, and we need to do everything possible to protect them and, in turn, contain the spread of the disease.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 02:40 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Ms. Isabel Geffner | <p>To the House Select Committee on COVID-19: Our glorious state is beset by an onslaught of unemployment -- faced first and foremost by those among us who are most vulnerable -- already facing enormous challenges to basic human needs -- food, shelter, healthcare. The sad truth is that in the best of times, North Carolina has insufficient unemployment</p> |

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| 04/06/2020 02:48 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Maryann Debski | <p>support for those who are out of work. Please ensure that we remedy this unfortunate situation -- IMMEDIATELY! -- both to amply respond to the dramatic and immediate economic needs of our fellow North Carolinians and to move our state forward among our peers in providing support for economic security. Thank you.</p> <p>Would you please pass emergency legislation to suspend the interest on late payment of income taxes? Or suspend payment until July ? Or set the interest rat from April 1 to July 1 to zero percent? People could use that money while waiting for employment uninsurance and the Fed payment, which many might not see until September. Thanks.</p> |
| 04/06/2020 02:58 PM | Economic Support Working Group | | <p>I support expanded unemployment benefits effective immediately. Suggested improvements that I agree with are "Ways to do this (per NC Jiustice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard." Families could be starving if NC doesn't act promptly.</p> |