

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/21/2020 08:56 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Greg Jennings	Please authorize the NC Division of Water Resources to spend funding on previously approved projects to keep people working on solving water resource problems in the state. Thank you from small business owners in the engineering and construction fields around the state.
03/21/2020 04:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Miss Angela Bridgman	<p>We need to insure that economic measures are sufficient to sustain the most vulnerable, the minorities, and others society has chosen to cast off.</p> <p>Historically, help has come too little and too late for our most vulnerable....and is cut off before they are fully recovered. Historically, people in these categories, including elderly, disabled, black, immigrant, LGBT and others....have been the first thrown on the scrap heap in bad economic times...and the last rescued from that scrap heap when the good times come.</p> <p>My concern is far more people will die from the economic turmoil that follows this outbreak...when they lose their jobs, homes and cars - than will die from the virus itself. One thing that should immediately be done is to place a one-year moratorium on all rents, mortgages and car payments. NOBODY should lose everything they worked so hard to build because of a pandemic they could not see coming and could not prevent....and which the Federal government did too little to prevent.</p> <p>It would be a heck of a thing to survive COVID-19 - only to be killed by the economic fallout that will be the result of COVID-19.</p> <p>Angela Bridgman Former candidate for NC Senate District 18</p>
03/23/2020 08:08 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Jonathan Page	Dear Representatives: Please consider funding for infrastructure projects to boost local employment and address critical needs for better transportation, internet connectivity, and environmental protection in the state. Specifically, please authorize funding for the NC Division of Water Resources projects already approved to address water quality, infrastructure, and property protection. NC DWR has a backlog of projects that are ready to move forward with engineering and design phases.
03/23/2020 08:17 AM	Economic Support Working Group	David McGillicuddy	Anything sort of some sort of economic stimulus given to every North Carolinian regardless of income is an abject failure on your part. Do not use this time to enrich your friends or yourselves. I'm looking at you, REPUBLICANS. Whatever god you believe in is watching you.
03/23/2020 08:51 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Covid-19 Kylie Sheldon	LOCKDOWN! it's never going to get better unless we nip it in the bud
03/23/2020 09:58 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Executive Director Kenneth Lewis	The federal definition of small businesses is under 500 employees. I am worried about the small business that are owned and operated as family businesses. Small LLCs do not require or expect owners to pay into unemployment. These businesses are shut down by the government but must still pay rent and overhead. In addition they must take care of their families. I urge the committee to allow these people to collect unemployment with a

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			copy of their last tax return and business license. It is tgeir only opportunity to stay afloat. Thank you
03/23/2020 02:21 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Kimberly Baum	I am adamantly against any provision for economic relief for corporations that is not regulated, not transparent and not conditioned on protecting workers, prohibiting buybacks and requiring criminal penalties for failure to comply. A \$500B slush fund distributed in secret without any oversight by Mnuchin is unacceptable. WE MUST PRIORITIZE WORKERS AND SMALL BUSINESS. Also, if cruise companies can fly under foreign flags to dodge taxes, then they are not eligible for bailouts.
03/23/2020 02:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. J. Michael Haithcock	I am self-employed and have been for most of my adult life and this is the first time that I will not have an income. My income has completely stopped because of the coronavirus. Assistance is going to be needed ASAP, especially since the beginning of April is right around the corner when most people have their mortgages and rents do.
03/23/2020 02:46 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Marilyn Pelino	What do you plan to do to see that elderly and disabled people, who are being strongly ADVISED to stay home, can get meals, groceries and medications?? Those NEEDS seem to be being IGNORED in the planning process, Yet those people are the MOST Vulnerable to the Coronavirus. I Hope the Your administration DOES NOT consider the elderly to be DISPOSABLE, But there is NO MONEY in the Emergency Bill the U.S. Senate is working on to provide any food delivery services to the ELDERLY. The MEALS ON WHEELS service in my area has a 3 MONTH WAITING LIST. So, they are of no help in Delivering food to the elderly at this time.
03/23/2020 02:57 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Erin Bowman	Please requesting all businesses with the capability to do so have their employees work from home for the foreseeable future. With schools now closed through at least May 15, this would alleviate some of the stress on parents who would not have to figure out what to do with their children during the day. Thank you.
03/23/2020 03:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	MSG Virginia Frizzell	We need to get a shelter in place order this is the only way to combat this terrible virus.
03/23/2020 03:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Yvette Townsend-Ingram	Good afternoon, Despite the recommendation of extended unemployment benefits and the guidance to apply via the Employment Security website, that option is obsolete and severely overwhelmed. I applied for unemployment benefits at the end of February, before the pandemic was announced to NC. I was told to begin weekly certifications and I would begin receiving benefits 3/12/2020. I have yet to receive a payment. Employment Security is not available via the phone and there is no website options to get assistance. I am sure there are so many others in the same predicament. Please provide relief and guidance regarding what families are to do for financial report.
03/23/2020 03:46 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Marc Friedland	Restaurants and other small businesses ordered closed need some relief from or help for rent payments on their building leases. Without government intervention, there is no way to delay or waive rent payments when a business is forced to close.
03/23/2020 04:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Congresswoman Alma Adams	I am writing you today in support of a special session of the North Carolina General Assembly to address the public health emergency caused by the COVID-19 novel coronavirus pandemic.

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			<p>I was honored to serve the people of North Carolina in the General Assembly for twenty years. I have no doubt that they are resilient, and that they will rise to the challenge that this public health emergency presents. However, in my nearly four decades of public service, North Carolina has never faced a challenge as great as it will face if this disease is not properly managed. President Trump has called on all political leaders to stop the partisanship and come together to confront the coronavirus pandemic. As you know, the coronavirus is a life or death crisis, not a partisan crisis.</p> <p>It is my responsibility and honor to lend my support to help citizens in North Carolina in times of individual and family crises and to continue to promote economic and social mobility within the 12th Congressional District and across our state. During this public health crisis, we must assist every resident in taking preventative measures. I will continue to work in Congress to support and pass legislation that will swiftly address this crisis and save lives in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina, and across the country.</p> <p>However, there is work that can be done at home in the Old North State. We already have identified hundreds of confirmed cases of the coronavirus in North Carolina. The threat is here and must be addressed faster than the usual speed of government. While Governor Cooper correctly declared a state of emergency, taken decisive action to limit the spread of the virus, and has acted swiftly to address the crisis, a special session of the North Carolina General Assembly could improve our public health resilience by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suspending utility disconnections and reconnecting affected households: The Centers for Disease Control recommends hand-washing as the number-one preventative measure to take to stop the spread of disease. With the recognition that hygiene is a public health priority, now more than ever, The State of North Carolina should work with our public utilities to reconnect or restore water service for residents, and suspend disconnections for 90 days. This is not a unique idea. The City of Detroit has released a "Coronavirus COVID-19 Water Restart Plan" in which the State of Michigan pays their \$25 reactivation fee and resumes service at no fee to the customer. Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms of Atlanta has halted disconnections for 60 days. Charlotte Mayor Vi Lyles and other mayors across the state have done the same. • Suspending foreclosures and evictions and/or mortgage and rent assistance: Due to the likely economic impacts of this virus, many families are expected to experience cash flow issues. They should not be forced to leave their houses, especially if they are self-quarantining. The State of North Carolina should work with lenders, landlords and local authorities suspend foreclosures and evictions for 90 days, as well as investigate ways to provide mortgage and rent assistance that is not subject to source of income discrimination. Already, Mecklenburg Sheriff Garry McFadden has said the Sheriff's department will no longer enforce eviction orders during this crisis, and the State Courts have effectively suspended foreclosures and evictions; however, these should not immediately resume when the crisis is over and residents are getting back on their feet. • Expanding Medicaid: Insuring as many people as possible is vital during a public health crisis. Citizens should not be afraid to seek medical attention if they can not afford it.

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			<p>However, while the Trump Administration has committed to removing barriers to testing, the costs of treatment still fall upon our citizens. The financial solvency of our private and public health infrastructure depends on this. The State of North Carolina should expand Medicaid for 90 days or permanently.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Providing emergency food and unemployment assistance: economic disruptions should not exacerbate the hunger crisis faced by hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians, including children and students. Already, over 100,000 North Carolinians have applied for unemployment insurance due to the coronavirus crisis. We must act sooner rather than later. <p>This is not an exhaustive list. There are good ideas from both parties to address this crisis. We have an abundance of tools and resources, but what we do not have is time to wait. Now is not the time for partisanship; now is the time for leadership. I hope you will seriously consider this request.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Alma S. Adams, Ph.D. (NC-12) Member of Congress</p>
03/23/2020 04:31 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Brittany Stone	<p>As you are considering economic support plans for our state, I have three main things I would urge you to keep in mind: (1) nontraditional employment, (2) keeping the lights on at home, and (3) health insurance.</p> <p>Please do not forget 1099 workers, contract employees, and others who do not have traditional relationships with employers and/or whose income fluctuates. Means testing or thresholds to qualify for individual support, tax breaks for companies, and payroll tax cuts leave these workers out. For example, I am a "small business owner," but I am an independent consultant who relies on contracts with businesses. The potential clients in my pipeline are currently pumping the brakes on our project conversations due to economic uncertainty, yet I would not qualify for unemployment, the money I made in previous years would not accurately reflect my current financial situation, and support plans aimed at traditional employment arrangements would not reach me-- but the detriments to both my livelihood and my ability to provide for my family are just as real.</p> <p>Secondly, please keep in mind that while businesses are struggling and many workers are without their regular income, bills are still coming due-- rent and mortgage payments, utilities, mobile phones-- and other line items in the family budget are getting bigger with more people at home all day, including groceries and food delivery services. Yes, businesses need help; that is obvious. But the people of this state need direct and immediate help keeping the lights on at home.</p> <p>Lastly, I would ask that you also consider the impact that income loss - in whatever form - will have on people's access to health insurance. While it is never a good time to toy with people's health or ability to afford the care they need, now is certainly not the time.</p>

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			Thank you for the work you do on behalf of North Carolina's citizens. -Brittany
03/23/2020 05:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Sarah Acuff	Dear NC Representatives, I urge you to respond to the recommendation put forth by the coalition NC United for Survival & Beyond and to place a moratorium on rent and mortgage payments for the foreseen future. You, yourself extended the tax filing date by saying "Taxpayers need relief during this difficult time." And in light of the most recent closures of schools til May 15th, it's time to heed this request by some of our state's community leaders. We must unburden those most at risk of housing insecurity to promote the measures the know that are necessary to curb the spread of COVID-19. We must support parents who are now tasked with schooling their children for seven more weeks. We need to lower the financial incentive for people to show up to work, where social distancing may be difficult, or protective measures less robust. This is a reasonable public health intervention if we are to contain the spread as soon as possible and alleviate the risk to our citizens and economy. Sincerely, Sarah Acuff
03/23/2020 05:56 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Karen Boardman, Esq.	I am an estate planning attorney and a notary public. As you may imagine, many clients are preparing for the worst and want to get their estate planning documents in order. I am extraordinarily concerned about my ability to effectively serve my clients while keeping them, myself, and my staff safe during this pandemic. All wills, healthcare powers of attorney, and advance directives require 2 witnesses (who are not family members or healthcare providers) and notarization of the signatures of the signer and both witnesses. All durable powers of attorney also require notarization. The current notarial regulations require in-person verification of signatures, which is risky during this time. Some states, like New York, have suspended the in-person requirement during the pandemic to protect everyone's safety. (See https://www.governor.ny.gov/news/no-2027-continuing-temporary-suspension-and-modification-laws-relating-disaster-emergency .) I would encourage our North Carolina legislature to consider similar protections for attorneys and notaries, at least temporarily. Thank you.
03/23/2020 06:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Kathi Robinson	Subsidizing corporations at this time and offering an \$1,200 is just wrong. The corporations can post their CEOs millions, they should have at least a few months in reserve to Kerri their companies afloat. I suspect this is just pleasing greedy shareholders without regard to those who have lost their jobs; were living in poverty before the pandemic; are stranded in isolation without the funds to feed their family and pay their rent/mortgage. It is criminal that they continue to put their wallets before their constituents! And eliminating the non-profits that receive Medicaid is about as low as they can get.
03/23/2020 10:15 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Personal Rory Mcilmoil	Enforce a statewide suspension on all utility shut-offs and late payments, for every single utility of every type, for every customer.
03/24/2020 06:34 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Work Closures Da-Nay Macklin	Close all non-essential businesses and have employers pay employees that clearly have the means like my husbands company MacLellan.

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03/24/2020 09:21 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Wendy	Dear Representatives: Please consider funding for constructing trail and greenway construction projects to boost local employment and address critical needs for better alternative transportation, healthy outdoor activity, and environmental protection in the state. Please authorize funding for NC Division of Water Resources, Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, and Recreational Trails Program projects to address trail and greenway construction, water quality, infrastructure, and property acquisition.
03/24/2020 09:56 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Kieran Roe	Dear Representatives: Please consider funding for infrastructure projects to boost local employment and address critical needs for better transportation, internet connectivity, and environmental protection in the state. In particular, please authorize funding for NC Division of Water Resources and NC Clean Water Management Trust Fund projects to address water quality, infrastructure, and property protection.
03/24/2020 09:56 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Janet Jennings	Dear Representatives: Please consider funding for infrastructure projects to boost local employment and address critical needs for better transportation, internet connectivity, and environmental protection in the state. In particular, please authorize funding for NC Division of Water Resources projects to address water quality, infrastructure, and property protection. Thank you for your hard work in this trying time.
03/24/2020 10:32 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Hayley Osborne	Please issue a shelter in place, people ARE NOT listening and are going out like nothing is wrong. Please make them stay home so we can recover as a community.
03/24/2020 11:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Sheryl McGavin	I am self employed, an LLC with no employees, licensed professional service provider. No products to sell, no way to provide services remotely. I will have no source of income, yet do not qualify for unemployment (because I am self-employed) and although I have submitted an application for the SBA Disaster Loan it is obvious by the form that it is not designed for my situation so I am not sure if it will help. I applied for the loan reluctantly. A loan that I have to pay back with interest, or delayed taxes that accumulate interest, just makes the financial hole I will be in deeper. This lost income is not recoverable. I do have an IRA but to draw on that would incur penalties and of course, affect my financial resources for retirement. I turn 60 this year and will not have time to recover those funds. When I am able to work again, my expenses will increase because of the increased debt with interest, but my ability to increase prices or work more hours to try to make more money will be limited because of the economic loss everyone will be experiencing. Something needs to be done to assist the self employed during this crisis. Please include people like me in your discussions and plans. Thank you.
03/24/2020 11:35 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Stay at home order Fotopoulous Effie	A stay at home order / lockdown for North Carolina needs to be implemented as soon as possible. Cases of COVID19 are rising daily and no one is abiding by the suggestion of quarantining and social distancing. Don't wait until this crisis gets worse in week, action needs to be taken NOW, in order to protect everyone.
03/24/2020 12:10 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Megan Mims	Our state needs to move to a mandatory shelter in place. The nations numbers will not decrease unless we take this measure!
03/24/2020 01:03 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. John McDonald	Please consider suspending requirements for NC automobile safety and emissions inspections. For example, I need to have an inspection done by the end of this month to be able to pay my registration fees and property tax, but how am I supposed to safely get the car inspected? I have no problem paying the renewal fees, but I don't think that getting a car inspected should be a priority right now. Delay the inspections until this crisis has

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			<p>passed. In no way should any of us face a fine for not getting our cars inspected by the deadline.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
03/24/2020 01:19 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Amber Oles	Please put shelter in place
03/24/2020 01:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Virus Honey Greeve	Request for Shelter in place to prevent further outbreaks
03/24/2020 01:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Rev. Mac Legerton	<p>Urge Congress and the White House not to ease any restrictions on preventing the virus until it peaks in every state. President Trump stated today that he wants to have the economy back running by Easter. The virus will not even have peaked in North Carolina or most other states by then - and hopefully not. If it has peaked by then, it will have meant that our health care systems have been totally overwhelmed. The purpose of restrictions are to prevent and slow the virus from spreading. Removing any preventive restrictions until the virus subsides will just unleash it. We need to strengthen restriction in NC now and send everyone home. That's the only way we are going to protect the lives of our people of North Carolina. All of these mitigation efforts will not work. The best, most read article in the world, explaining this is:</p> <p>https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-the-hammer-and-the-dance-be9337092b56</p> <p>This is the second in a series. Here's the first:</p> <p>https://medium.com/@tomaspueyo/coronavirus-act-today-or-people-will-die-f4d3d9cd99ca</p> <p>The longer we wait to move toward total "shelter in place", the more the economy will be harmed in the long run. We need a "long run" marathon view or we will lose thousands and thousands more lives in our beloved state. This will not end soon. Place politics aside and save our lives.</p>
03/24/2020 04:34 PM	Economic Support Working Group	David Heinen	<p>The North Carolina Center for Nonprofits has been seeking input from nonprofits about the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their organizations and the communities they serve. Here are six policy solutions that would be immensely helpful to the nonprofit sector. The Center will make additional suggestions for policy solutions as we continue to learn more about the hardships nonprofits are facing during the pandemic.</p> <p>State grants and contracts. The state is a critical partner to many nonprofit service providers. Significant disruptions in state grants and contracts could permanently shut down organizations providing health services, child care, food assistance, senior care, and many other essential services in our state. Nonprofits may have difficulty fulfilling their deliverables on state grants and contracts due to the necessary public health response to this emergency and the impact it is will have on all parts of the economy.</p> <p>Policy solutions: The General Assembly should pass legislation requiring that, if a nonprofit cannot fulfill its deliverable on a state contract due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, then the contract will be based on intended deliverables without penalty for inability to meet deliverables. In addition, we encourage the NC Office of State</p>

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			<p>Management and Budget to consider following the lead of the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in temporarily loosening grant and contract reporting, application, and renewal requirements.</p> <p>Unemployment insurance. Businesses and nonprofits throughout North Carolina are making (and will continue to make) difficult decisions in light of the economic challenges that are resulting from the public health response to the pandemic. For more details about nonprofit-specific issues related to unemployment insurance (UI), see this blog post.</p> <p>Policy solution: To the extent that the General Assembly makes temporary changes to unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, it is important to consider that nonprofits have the option of self-insuring rather than reimbursing the state for UI claims rather than paying SUTA based on experience rating. The Center would certainly support legislative efforts to hold harmless businesses and nonprofits for UI claims resulting from this pandemic by not charging temporary benefits to their experience rating. However, it would be essential for any such legislation to have a parallel provision ensuring that nonprofits that elect to reimburse are also held harmless. The current version of stimulus legislation in Congress would provide federal funding for half of the UI claims of the reimbursing nonprofits. Unless the state can pick up the other half of the cost of these UI claims, nonprofits that have elected to self-insure for UI – including healthcare providers, food banks, housing providers, and senior care facilities – may have to close their doors or significantly reduce services at a time when access to healthcare, food, housing, and other basic needs are more essential than ever.</p> <p>Policy solution: Two types of charitable nonprofits are exempt from UI laws: (1) churches and other religious nonprofits; and (2) small nonprofits with fewer than four employees. That means that employees working for these types of nonprofits are ineligible for UI benefits if they lose their jobs because of COVID-19. These workers should have access to Disaster Unemployment Assistance if President Trump declares as major disaster in North Carolina, as Governor Cooper has requested. However, if there is no major disaster declaration, it would be extremely helpful for the General Assembly to provide some type of temporary UI benefits for these workers at churches, faith-based organizations, and small nonprofits.</p> <p>Extending small business assistance to nonprofits. Like many small businesses, nonprofits are suffering significant financial losses as a result of the necessary public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Policymakers are rightly seeking to help mitigate the financial harm to small businesses. However, any assistance to employers through a corporate or income tax mechanism will likely leave out nonprofit employers.</p> <p>Policy solution: Any employer benefit should be available to nonprofit employers, either by making the tax mechanism relate to taxes that nonprofits pay (such as payroll taxes or unrelated business income taxes) or by using a grant mechanism for nonprofits.</p> <p>Support for charitable giving. Nonprofits have seen a decline in private giving the past two year, and widespread closures and cancellations of public events have eliminated important sources of earned income revenue (tickets for performances, registration for</p>

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			<p>educational conferences, etc.) for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Policy solution: If the General Assembly is considering any tax changes to respond to the pandemic, it would be extremely helpful to consider adding a targeted, temporary giving incentive (whether a credit or a deduction) that would be available to all North Carolinians to encourage them to support the work of charitable organizations in their community that are responding to, or suffering from, the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our understanding that the current version of the stimulus bill being considered by Congress includes a limited non-itemizer tax deduction for charitable contributions (capped at \$300 per year and not applicable retroactively on 2019 taxes). Many in Congress (from both parties) are trying to amend the bill to strengthen this temporary universal charitable deduction provision. If these efforts are unsuccessful, it will be important for the General Assembly to help encourage private giving by including a more meaningful state tax deduction or credit for charitable contributions.</p> <p>Extension of charitable solicitation filing deadlines. Most charitable nonprofits are required by state law to have charitable solicitation licenses, which are issued annually by the NC Secretary of State. Many of these nonprofits will need to file for renewal of their licenses on May 15 and will need an extension due to workplace disruptions stemming from COVID-19 and social distancing practices.</p> <p>Policy solution: Currently, state law (NCGS § 131F-5(d) only grants the Secretary of State the authority to grant filing extensions of up to 60 days. It would be extremely helpful for the General Assembly either: (1) to provide for automatic six-month extension of these filing deadlines; or (2) to expand the Secretary of State's authority to allow it to grant extension of up to six months.</p> <p>In most cases, nonprofits now have fewer resources to meet greater needs, since most organizations are suffering financial loss, significant reduction in the availability of in-person volunteers, and the reduction in staff capacity as nonprofit employees are sick, at home with children who are unexpectedly out of school, or having to work remotely to avoid in-office interactions.</p> <p>Policy solution: It is essential that state government leaders consult with nonprofits as the state of North Carolina continues to proactively respond to this crisis. If the General Assembly or the executive branch of state government are putting together task forces or commissions to help advise the state on COVID-19 response, leaders at the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits are ready and able to participate.</p>
03/24/2020 05:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Craig Armstrong	<p>Speaker Moore & Honorable Members of the House Select Committee on Covid 19,</p> <p>With prevention efforts in place for the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars has been following suit with all of the executive orders and guidelines issued by Governor Cooper. Our Posts have been canceling Bingo and Hall Rentals, closing our private, members-only, canteens (bars) as well as finding ways to host meetings electronically (which is quite challenging for some of our older members). Nonetheless, we are weathering the storm just like everyone else and adapting new and</p>

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			<p>creative ways to continue our mission of helping veterans and their families through this pandemic. We have been following all of the precautions and advice from the State Health Agencies, CDC, and the White House at a significant blow and financial hardships to our local organizations. The canteens at our Posts across the state are the lifeline to financial independence for many of our affiliates. The income from sales is how they pay their bills, how they fund their relief programs to provide financial grants to veterans and military families in need, and how they stay engaged as an integral part of their local communities. We have already received phone calls from Posts from across the state that if this ban lasts more than 2 weeks, they will be forced to close their doors. We are quite possibly looking at the end of VFW Posts in some communities where they have been a mainstay for over 50 years, some 75. With them goes all of our community outreach programs, our scholarships for the local students, and even more importantly, a place where veterans can come home from war and their time in service and meet with like minded individuals. The VFW has supported the communities of our state as well as state agencies for over 100 years. Most notably in recent history, VFW Posts jumped to action with the recent hurricanes by setting up distribution points, getting thousands of pounds of relief aid and over \$125,000 in cash into our communities to not only help veterans but everyone. We didn't go searching for the news trucks, maybe we should have, but that is the nature of our organization. The eagerness to serve never ends.</p> <p>To continue that trend, we want to offer up our Posts as possible meeting and distribution sites for either drive-thru testing and/or food, water and relief materials distribution sites. The VFW has 138 Posts across our state, with some of them on very large properties ideal for handling cases like this. Not to mention thousands upon thousands of members eager to serve. We encourage you all to reach out to our Department Headquarters and let us know how we can help. We know that the Governor's decision to close all bars and restaurants was a tough one to make and we are truly sorry that it has had to come to this; just know that the VFW stands behind it for the safety of everyone in North Carolina. As we mentioned above though, this is going to create hardships that we don't know if we will be able to bounce back from. Communities all over the state are looking at possibly losing their VFWs and that will be a sad day for not only our veterans but everyone in those communities.</p> <p>As veterans, we are usually last to step up to the plate and ask for help. We want to try and fix everything ourselves but this is something we don't think we will be able to do without your help.</p> <p>Therefore the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars is requesting the following from the North Carolina General Assembly in regards to our Posts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That all ABC permit renewals that are due by April 30th be waived or postponed to a later date to allow our Posts to regain lost revenue due to the closures. 2. That utilities and mortgage payments be waived or postponed until after Posts are allowed to reopen. <p>If none of that is possible,</p>

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			<p>3. The State of North Carolina implements a financial grant to help recoup lost revenue for non-profit veterans' organizations in order to ensure that they may remain fiscally solvent and as an integral part of their communities once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.</p> <p>Without these measures put into place for our states' major veteran non-profits, we are surely going to see a demise in our ability to help our veterans and their families in need. We ask that you please consider these requests with your highest regard. As a non-profit organization, we do not receive the same protections as many businesses across our state receive and the economic impact to us will be something that will be immensely difficult to recover from.</p> <p>We want to thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to hearing from you all soon.</p> <p>Craig Armstrong State Commander NC Veterans of Foreign Wars</p>
03/24/2020 05:46 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Tom Baker	<p>In accordance with Executive Orders 118 and 120 issued by Governor Roy Cooper, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7383 in Cary, North Carolina has ceased operations of our canteen & bar as well as our event venue rental business. As a 501(c)(19) Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization we rely on those sales to keep the doors open, lights on, and programs funded.</p> <p>VFW Post 7383 has supported North Carolina and the Western Wake community for the last 50 years. In just the last four years our Post has distributed over \$42,000 in relief grants to veterans and military families in need, half of those grants occurred in 2019. We responded to the Governor's call during Hurricane Florence by collecting 4,000 lbs in relief supplies and convoying them to other VFW facilities in the hardest-hit areas for distribution. We stand ready to assist the State during this pandemic and would like to offer our property in Cary as a possible meeting and distribution site for either drive-thru testing and/or food, water, and relief supplies distribution.</p> <p>On March 17th VFW North Carolina Commander Craig Armstrong sent a letter to Governor Cooper requesting that:</p> <p>ABC Permit renewals due by April 30th be waived or postponed to a later date Utility and mortgage payments waived or postponed until after Posts are able to reopen.</p> <p>If none of that is possible,</p> <p>We ask the State to implement a financial grant to help recover lost revenue for non-profit veterans organizations in order to ensure that we remain an integral part of our community once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.</p> <p>The local community will need a great deal of help to bounce back, and we want to ensure</p>

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			<p>that we are there for them in Western Wake County when they need us. We are asking for some breathing room so we are able to maintain fiscal solvency through this crisis. Waiving these fees and taxes will ensure that we are best positioned to aid our city, county, state, and nation in recovery efforts. Our Post Membership has fought in every major war since World War II, and as such, we look at closing our facility as a small sacrifice as part of the war effort against this pandemic, but we need some help from you and your colleagues on the House Select Committee on COVID-19 and the North Carolina General Assembly.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, we look forward to hearing from you soon.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <div> <div>David Wagoner Commander VFW Post 7383</div> <div>Rich Grimes Adjutant VFW Post 7383</div> </div> <p>Tom Baker State Legislative Liaison NC VFW</p>
03/24/2020 07:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Kerrie Stepp	I think it is important to spell out what is considered essential... there are plants in buncombe county where hundreds of people go to work closely together. I have a small child with asthma and husband that is in his 60s with diabetes. If I bring the virus home it could kill them both. What do people like myself do?
03/24/2020 07:27 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Christina Pelech	Please consider some relief package for the self-employed & small business owners.
03/24/2020 08:04 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr John Pritchard	Let's set aside the panic, hysteria and political posturing . We can't remain shut down very long and economy has already been crippled as it is. I'm a senior so am extra vulnerable, but still recognize we can't stay shut down. Release the Rx that have already been proven effective as both a treatment and possibly a preventive. Quite dithering and let's get moving forward.
03/24/2020 08:45 PM	Economic Support Working Group	HOMETRUST CALL CENTERS Dana Stone	HomeTrust Bank is endangering their employees who work in call centers. Their blatant disregard for employees' health is heart breaking. HomeTrust Bank is putting money above people's well-being. For the love of God- shut down the call centers!
03/24/2020 08:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Pam Smith	Hello, thank you for your hard work. Please help landlords take it easy on us. Can you subsidize rent? Or, can you subsidize mortgages and give an incentive to waive rent?
03/24/2020 09:29 PM	Economic Support Working Group		As a 1099 independent contractor, I do not qualify for unemployment benefits. Will the State provide a relief fund for these workers? I would be happy to fill out a skills assessment survey to be matched to a need in my community in exchange for relief support.
03/25/2020 08:11 AM	Economic Support	P A	With Gov Cooper ordering people who operate businesses to stay home, will he be giving

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	Working Group		up his salary as everyone else is doing? Will he be going on reduce salary like those with unemployment benefits? Will he make a show of solidarity with people who do not rely on government salaries?
03/25/2020 08:51 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Lisa Riegel	On behalf of the 1.1 million AARP members and their families in North Carolina, we would like to recommend that the committee consider ways to expand paid leave for employees to care for their loved ones who are sick. Many employees are primary caregivers for a loved one with a chronic disease, who may be particularly affected by infectious disease. We need to be prepared to better support these critical family caregivers. The 2019 update report in the AARP Public Policy Institute series, "Valuing the Invaluable" finds 1.33 million family caregivers in North Carolina are providing an estimated 1.1 billion hours of care to ensure the health and well-being of parents, spouses, partners, and friends with chronic, disabling, or serious health conditions~-. The care they provide is worth a staggering \$13.1 billion and enables people to live independently in their homes and communities as they age. These numbers will likely increase in light of the COVID 19 pandemic and thus the need is even more urgent to better support these critical caregivers. Thus we urge you to support these caregivers with policies that expand family caregiving paid leave. Reference: https://www.aarp.org/ppi/info-2015/valuing-the-invaluable-2015-update.html
03/25/2020 09:02 AM	Economic Support Working Group		What are you doing about the threat of suicide? Portland has 23 % more suicide threats since the state of emergency was declared. Will suicide deaths be reported as an outcome from the harsh coronavirus actions of the Cooper and his government? Will you accurately report suicides and depression from the effects of the quarantine and the effects of people going bankrupt? Will you report bankruptcies?
03/25/2020 09:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Why is this a false dichotomy? We can stay well AND we can keep the economy running. We can take the virus seriously. We can wash our hands. The sick can stay home. We can quarantine. AND We can go to work. The senior citizens can take precautions. We can stay well AND we can keep the economy running.
03/25/2020 09:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group		All Elections should be postponed. All Primaries, All runoffs, the November elections. Since citizens have been restricted, and the right to gather has been taken away, we have not been allowed to canvass. Candidates have not been allowed to meet people. If work and taxes are postponed, everything else should be also. Everyone should bear the pain of the lockdown, not just private businesses.
03/25/2020 09:50 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Teachers should not receive their salaries unless they are working. Private citizens and businesses aren't getting paid. Why should teachers? The Governor should receive a reduced salary, because he has reduced the salaries and income of hard working people. He should not be allowed to make everyone poor while he walks away with his regular salary and his fundraising donations in a time of crisis. Why is the Gov allowed to fundraise during a crisis? He is profiitting off this hysteria and panic he is creating.
03/25/2020 10:04 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Patrick Ingram	The unemployment needs to be reworked. We paid off the fed debt McCrory wanted,now we need to help your tax paying workers falling on hard times now because of COVID-19. There may be additional federal money we could get that is being blocked by old policy

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			remove it now!
03/25/2020 10:06 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Kristen Hill	Freelancers, gig workers, contract and self-employed workers all need to be able to file for unemployment. We've lost money too, won't have any way to pay bills because we've lost work. Please help us and don't forget about us.
03/25/2020 10:09 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Teachers should not receive a salary unless they are teaching. Let them go on unemployment like all the restaurant workers.
03/25/2020 10:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Why is it that government worker are sitting pretty with their paycheck, while private businesses are being screwed? Totally unfair power grab by Cooper. Unconstitutional.
03/25/2020 10:20 AM	Economic Support Working Group	NC Digital Kids Library Lisa Martin	<p>Dear Speaker Moore and Members of the Coronavirus Response Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of the NC Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) members, thank you for your leadership and service on the House Coronavirus response committee. To that end, I offer some information about a resource that will be helpful to K-12 students across the state who are at home for an extended period.</p> <p>In 2017, the NCPLDA launched the NC Kids Digital Library, which provides access to children's e-books, e-audio books and video primarily for children in K-4th grades. Working with Overdrive, we were able to secure permission for the first digital library in the United States available to children statewide. This was made possible through funding provided by the General Assembly. Non-recurring support provided in FY18 and FY19 enabled NCPLDA to build and maintain the collection. The FY2020 budget included a \$200,000 recurring appropriation for NC Kids Digital Library, as well as an increase to State Aid for Public Libraries. Unfortunately, because the budget was not passed, NC Kids Digital Library went unfunded and overall library funding remained flat. NCPLDA has sustained the NC Kids Digital Library permanent collection of one copy-one user titles, but a number of simultaneous-unlimited access contracts that ensure every child has access have expired. NCPLDA has also been unable to provide access to new content offered by publishers due to limited funds.</p> <p>Due to the Coronavirus school closure, public libraries across the state have received calls from school systems asking about access to NC Kids Digital Library and requesting that NCPLDA not only add additional fiction titles, but include non-fiction to help support at home schooling.</p> <p>With this week's announcement that schools will remain closed through May 15th, NCPLDA wants to make sure that children have access to content that they need. The NC Kids Digital Library is already positioned to help meet reading needs across the state if additional funding can be secured. Many county libraries have provided the digital access through school partnerships using student ID numbers. For school systems that did not already have partnerships in place, local libraries are offering temporary digital access cards for students to use.</p> <p>NCPLDA expects to see public library/school partnerships grow next year, especially if access to needed content is secured. Digital content is not cheap. Securing access to a</p>

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			<p>digital library with a vast collection of materials can be challenging for individual school systems. NCPLDA has received permission from publishers to provide statewide access; thus, the simultaneous use purchases made can save thousands of dollars for individual schools, counties and the state.</p> <p>While the ratified budget contains an appropriation of \$200,000 recurring for the NC Kids Digital Library, an increase to \$400,000 would allow NCPLDA to renew expired contracts, meet holds requests and metered usage demands AND expand the collection to include additional simultaneous use and single use non-fiction resources that are being requested by school districts.</p> <p>NCPLDA is preparing carts so when funding is received, orders can be expedited and NCPLDA can have the additional materials ready within 24-48 hours. Steve Potash, CEO/ President of Overdrive (digital content provider for libraries and schools) is also working to secure temporary extensions on a few key simultaneous access contracts, which is extremely helpful for now. NCPLDA is working diligently to ensure that North Carolina school children do not experience the biggest "summer reading slide" ever; however, funding is critical!</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request. Now, more than ever, schools and libraries can work together to better leverage resources and expands the impact of state funds.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need additional information.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Lisa Martin lisa@cap-ad.com 919-880-2955</p>
03/25/2020 10:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	MaryBe McMillan	<p>The legislature needs to act ASAP to extend unemployment benefits and increase the maximum amount. We are almost dead last in the amount and duration of benefits offered. It would be unconscionable to take no action and let jobless workers miss out on federally extended benefits. More money in workers' pockets helps families and it helps our economy by increasing consumer spending. Please take action NOW to help thousands of your jobless constituents.</p>
03/25/2020 10:58 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Jeffrey Stites	<p>Government mandated closures of private businesses are clearly "takings" under the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution. Loans are not "just compensation" for that taking, which while it may be necessary for the public interest, is no different from taking someone's home to build a road.</p> <p>I would hope it goes without saying that public employee raises, yes, including teachers' raises, are off the table until the state's small businesses have recovered.</p> <p>I know it's a federal issue rather than a state one, but wouldn't SBA loan forgiveness make a ton more economic sense than student loan forgiveness at this time? Recipients of SBA loans have already proven that their business plan is sound, their business is likely to</p>

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			succeed, and they are competent to run the business. It's as close to a guaranteed return on economic stimulus as you're likely to get.
03/25/2020 11:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group		This is so inaccessible to people. Why weren't members given a training on WebEx beforehand? Why is there no moderator who is muting everyone and unmuting them as necessary? How is this transparent to the public?
03/25/2020 11:49 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Jeremy Sprinkle	<p>Lawmakers should immediately pass legislation to ensure that our state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system will help workers and their families weather this crisis. I am asking you to take these immediate steps to assist workers and improve the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - return to 26 maximum weeks of benefits - change the formula used to calculate benefits - increase the maximum weekly benefit amount and index it to wages - restore eligibility for unemployment caused by health reasons and family hardship <p>Thank you for your leadership during these troubled times.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jeremy Sprinkle Raleigh, NC</p>
03/25/2020 12:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Diane Knudsen	We need help fast. \$1,200 from the federal government doesn't do anything. What about the self-employed people, what about small businesses. People need help with food, rent, mortgage payments. You all have been cashing in on the backs of the rest of us for too long and we will not be left here to suffer. Get the money from Richard Burr if you must but this is not acceptable!
03/25/2020 12:19 PM	Economic Support Working Group	REBECCA COLLINS	We need a UBI now to survive. Not a one time payment. Please don't let us poorer people die out here.
03/25/2020 03:37 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Thomas Anderson	The Governor's blanket order closing many small businesses is punitive and makes no provision for individual businesses to demonstrate that they can operate safely by making changes in normal operating procedures. We respectfully request that the Legislature, as our only defense from this crushing hand of government, require that individual businesses be given the opportunity to operate if they can do so and not increase the risk of their customers contracting or spreading the virus.
03/25/2020 05:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Hollis Kerfoot	Please do all you can to support SMALL businesses and their employees -- tax breaks, pay assistance, easy access to unemployment -- during this crisis. Large companies can take care of themselves since they've got more of an economic cushion. At the very least, they should be willing to suffer some deprivation when others are facing more losses.
03/25/2020 06:25 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Financial assistance William McDonald	The federal government has failed us. I am on social security disability and it will be over a month before seeing relief that may be decreased because I don't have to file taxes. I barely make it and now it is worst. My car got repoed. I am behind on bills. We need significant financial assistance not to businesses but to individuals that helped build those reserves like me before I was disabled and making six figures. Now I do t even see \$25,000 yearly. Why not send financial assistance through EBT cards. I can't get it any right now because I am penalized for not having children to get financial help. Can't file for unemployment due to my part time jobs because I can't claim my self employment that just started recently nor can I claim for an employer that never paid me before I was

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			having to leave for non payment of wages. Prior to last year I didn't have to file taxes and can't file taxes right now as I have to go to their office to get my PIN number which is closed so again I may get no help from the federal government so we need someone to consider individuals not just businesses and to look at those of us that may not get help because we don't have children or didn't have to file taxes in past. Please help. More than happy to speak by phone. My number is +13364207160. Why not incentivize banks or companies to provide loans to people that have low income and bad credit. Can't get a new car with no down payment and my credit score is bad due to disability. Title loan was necessary due to a house fire and they took my car because late four days on a payment due to the virus. Can't get help through legal aid just the runaround. Where are the people I voted for. Not that it should matter but I am republican.
03/25/2020 08:29 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Hillary Rich	<p>Hello, my vehicle registration renewal is due at the end of this month and I still need to get my state inspection done and then go to a DMV to pay and turn in my vanity plate for a regular plate. Due to my recent job loss because of COVID-19, I can't afford the vanity plate anymore or the fees being charged to renew my registration online, which is why I need to go to the office in person. Heck, I really can't even afford my registration and vehicle property taxes at all right now, let alone the cost of the inspection. Anyway, I'm sick and self quarantining and the governor is about to issue a stay at home order. Additionally, my local license plate DMV location has closed until further notice. All of these obstacles are making it impossible for me to get my registration renewed by next Tuesday. I live alone and have no one to take care of this for me. And even if I did, I really don't like the idea of a stranger being in my car right now touching all the hard surfaces to do the inspection. I respectfully ask the N.C. General Assembly to consider extending vehicle registration renewal deadlines and/or waive the \$15-\$25 late fees will due to the Covid-19 crisis.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration. Stay safe everyone!</p>
03/26/2020 09:26 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Melea Rose-Waters	<p>At Prevent Child Abuse NC, we urge you to consider the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in the COVID-19 crisis: children. Parenting itself is a challenge. And, circumstances, undoubtedly, determine just how difficult it can be as a parent – even without the added stress of uncertainty, social isolation, job loss or reduction in wages, or inadequate food and shelter.</p> <p>Reports of child abuse and neglect have increased 29 percent over the past 19 years in NC, and it costs the state \$2 billion a year in downstream consequences¹. A November 2019 Vital Signs Report² from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US are correlated to Adverse Childhood Experiences like child abuse and neglect, including heart disease, diabetes and depression. It is imperative that our response to the COVID-19 crisis recognizes that the response requires not only addressing immediate needs, but to strategically address the long-term consequences by investing upstream NOW in prevention.</p> <p>Recommendations that prevent child abuse and neglect from the CDC include³: strengthen economic supports for families, enhancing parenting skills to promote healthy child development, and providing quality care and education early in life. The Center for the Study of Social Policy uses the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework⁴ and we encourage you to use this framework in your policy deliberations. These</p>

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			<p>Protective Factors are: Children's Social and Emotional Competence, Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Child Development, Social Connections, Parental Resilience and Concrete Supports in Times of Need. As families are becoming more isolated due to the pandemic, we fear that there will be a spike in unreported and preventable neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. The people who encounter families and report many suspected cases of abuse and neglect – educators and child care providers – no longer have regular face to face contact with families.</p> <p>We request that as you make decisions about how our state will move forward, that you support essential services to families that will aid in reducing the stress and anxiety associated with this pandemic, and ensure the safety and well-being of our state's children.</p> <p>Parenting education classes such as Incredible Years, Triple P, and Circle of Parents must continue as a lifeline for families, and the organizations that are providing these services need resources in order to continue through telehealth, including investments to purchase software platforms that are HIPAA compliant. Some parents who receive these services need access to equipment and broadband services. Home visiting programs offered in NC have strong evidence to prevent abuse and neglect. These programs need the same type of support in order to continue to provide much needed consultation, education, physical, and mental well-checks for families.</p> <p>Concrete supports will also help reduce stress – a risk factor for abuse – during these difficult times. NC must expand upon the paid family and medical leave and unemployment insurance benefits covered in the most recent Federal relief packages to strategically fill gaps in coverage for families not covered by the federal legislation. This could include, but not be limited to, employers with over 500 employees, the self-employed and those who work 100% on sales commissions. This will provide financial relief and ease the worries that families have in how they will take care of their family. Assuring all families can access the medical care they need should they develop COVID-19 symptoms is also essential. A study has shown that every \$1 increase in the minimum wage can lead to a reduction in the number of reports of neglect by almost 10%5. Offering North Carolinians additional cash assistance that increases the amount offered through the federal legislation is an investment in prevention, in our economy, and in our future.</p> <p>Another critical concrete support is child care for emergency and essential service workers, as well as financial support for child care providers who have had to close or have lost business. Quality child care is both a key strategy cited by the CDC to prevent child maltreatment and it is critical to the infrastructure of our economy. We support investments in quality, increased access and supports for the early childhood education workforce.</p> <p>North Carolinians are resilient, and we will come through this even stronger. However, as we prepare for children to return to school, we must invest in our schools becoming a trauma informed place of learning and support. Educators are a lifeline for many students and provide a critical social connection for families. Educators must have the knowledge and skills to appropriately respond to children who have experienced trauma during the</p>

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			<p>COVID-19 crisis, just as they do after a hurricane or other natural disaster. This is secondary prevention and will prevent intergenerational trauma.</p> <p>We appreciate your leadership during these difficult times. We urge you to think strategically and upstream while addressing immediate needs. We must make prevention a priority.</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse NC</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina (PCANC) is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. Prevent Child Abuse of North Carolina ensures that prevention is a priority for North Carolina and all communities have the knowledge, support and resources to prevent child abuse and neglect. PCANC is a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. For more information contact Melea Rose-Waters, Policy Director at mrosewaters@preventchildabusenc.org . Learn more about Prevent Child Abuse NC at www.PreventChildAbuseNC.org, our statewide Board and our www.ConnectionsMatterNC.org campaign. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. You can #BeAConnection, especially you, especially now.</p> <p>References: https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/n-c-invests-little-to-prevent-child-abuse-and-ultimately-pays-a-higher-price/ https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/ https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/n-c-invests-little-to-prevent-child-abuse-and-ultimately-pays-a-higher-price/ https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/ https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740916303139</p>
03/26/2020 10:11 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Kim Briggs	I demand you vote no for mail in ballots for November election. We are coming off a controversial 2016 election, we do not need another cycle of this. No way to verify as our Governor did away with voter ID!
03/26/2020 10:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	EVP, Civitas Institute Brian Balfour	<p>Reviewing the last economic crisis reveals that state government needs to take more measures now to avoid a fiscal panic in the coming months and next fiscal year. As the 2008 financial crisis devastated the economy, North Carolina's FY 2008-09 state budget faced a \$3.2 billion shortfall. Governors Mike Easley and Bev Perdue utilized a combination of budget cuts, hiring freezes and dipped into state reserves (including the lottery fund) to close the gap.</p> <p>The following year's budget was staring at a \$4.6 billion shortfall between projected revenues and expenditures. A combination of further budget cuts, "temporary" tax hikes and federal stimulus funds enabled the state to close that gap.</p> <p>In short, the \$2.7 billion the state has set aside thus far strengthens the state's position, but more will likely need to be done.</p> <p>There is no guarantee that the federal government will bailout state governments this time</p>

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			<p>around, and imposing tax increases during a period of recession was a huge mistake that must not be repeated.</p> <p>Following are several recommendations for budget and tax policy responses the state should follow in order to address the coronavirus crisis:</p> <p>No new or temporary taxes. Whatever legislators do, they should NOT enact any so-called temporary taxes. Doing so will punish people already struggling and prolong the downturn and recovery. History has shown that “temporary” taxes prove to be very difficult to eliminate.</p> <p>Hold off on taxpayer rebate checks. Some legislators are urging the state to supplement the state’s easing of unemployment benefit requirements with a cash payment to all citizens. Approving a measure like the Taxpayer Refund Act would provide a payment of \$125 to \$250 to most North Carolinians, at a cost of \$668 million to the General Fund. The state should instead opt to maintain these funds in reserves to help balance the budget and avoid costly new taxes. Federal legislation is already poised to send checks of up to \$3,400 to a family of four. Once the economic fallout subsides, legislators can re-assess the feasibility of state rebate checks.</p> <p>Eliminate unfilled positions. Eliminate unfilled positions vacant since July 1. The state has approximately 1,700 unfilled positions that have been vacant since the beginning of this fiscal year, with a combined salary of roughly \$103 million in total lapsed salary for the entire year, which does not include the cost of benefits. These positions should be permanently eliminated and the unspent salary and benefit funds set aside into the rainy day fund.</p> <p>Save surplus funds. Set aside 100 percent of any surplus funds for the current fiscal year into reserves. According to the most recent Office of State Controller General Fund monthly report, “The Fiscal Research Division estimates that General Fund revenue is \$289.6 million above the revenue target for the fiscal year.” To the extent that any surplus revenue remains by the end of the fiscal year, these funds should be set aside to help fill any budget gaps in the coming fiscal year.</p> <p>Freeze hiring. State government should not include any additional positions in the coming fiscal year budget, nor hire any additional workers for the remainder of this fiscal year.</p> <p>Implement budget cuts. Reduce non-health state agency spending by 5 percent for the remainder of the current fiscal year. This measure would largely replicate Executive Order 21 issued by Gov. Bev Purdue in August 2009.</p> <p>Reduce capital spending. Halt expenditures for capital projects for which state funds have been appropriated but not placed under state contract. Transfer any unused capital project funds to the General Fund. These provisions were included in Purdue’s Executive Order 6 issued in January 2009.</p>
03/26/2020 10:37 AM	Economic Support Working Group	SusieWW Collins	We, the people will go out in public to vote. Do not take our voting rights away. This virus is Political, trying yo take through Presidency away from Trump.
03/26/2020 11:00 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Hazel Forrest	Vote at election sites.
03/26/2020 11:16 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Glenn Silver	I am writing as a member of the Islamic Association of Raleigh (IAR). IAR is a faith-based group that is very active in the community. We are a member of One Wake (https://www.onewake.org); operate a community food bank; and currently are distributing food parcels and other essential items to our neighbors who need it most. We respectfully request this Committee to consider funding that will allow us, and other nonprofits like us,

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			to meet our operating and program costs for helping ensure our seniors, who are among the most vulnerable, and others, such as children who no longer get meals at schools and families whose adults have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 business closures, have their basic human needs met. Thank you.
03/26/2020 12:10 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Carl Moore	Keep the vote as is, do not allow even the appearance of any voter fraud. It's required to vote. Non citizens don't have the right to vote.
03/26/2020 12:56 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Evelyn Bulluck	Will seniors receive the \$1200 from the stimulus package that just passed the Senate.
03/26/2020 03:32 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Thomas Nee	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot by voter fraud.
03/27/2020 02:45 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Morgan Gramann	<p>I respectfully submit this feedback in response to your request for input on how best to respond with emergency legislative measures to address issues facing families and businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This feedback is submitted on behalf of members and partners of the North Carolina Alliance for Health, a statewide, non-partisan coalition that convenes, mobilizes, supports, and empowers partners to advance equitable policies that reduce health disparities, prevent chronic disease, and promote health.</p> <p>Additional context for our recommendations is attached. In short, we recommend that the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide an additional \$6 million in immediate funding to every Feeding the Carolinas food bank in North Carolina; • support our farmers by keeping farmers markets open, allocating additional resources to help farmers meet CDC health and safety recommendations, and provide funding for emergency payments; • continue to submit waiver requests to USDA to maximize SNAP and WIC funding and flexibility and take other actions to expand access to SNAP and WIC; • provide funding to child nutrition programs, providing maximum flexibility for the funds to be used to purchase food or for general operational needs; • close the health insurance coverage gap to ensure all North Carolinians have access to care; and • take steps to ensure all North Carolinians have access to broadband and technology allowing them to work or study from home. <p>Please do not hesitate to reach out to me at 919.308.8800 or morgan@ncallianceforhealth.org should you have any questions or need additional information.</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership during this uncertain time.</p> <p>Warmly,</p> <p>Morgan Wittman Gramann Executive Director</p> <p>Feeding the Carolinas Food Banks</p>

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			<p>We ask the State to provide an additional \$6 million in immediate funding to every Feeding the Carolinas food bank in North Carolina. 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 along with additional labor required to manage the additional need and loss of volunteer resources created by required social distancing and the protection of older adults (a large pool of community volunteers) from exposure.</p> <p>The Feeding the Carolinas network typically provides food to 2.6 million North Carolinians facing hunger each year. The COVID-19 pandemic is expected to, and already has, significantly increased the number of North Carolinians experiencing food insecurity. It is critical that the State provide Feeding the Carolinas with immediate and flexible funding to allow them to continue to provide food to those who need it.</p> <p>Farmers and Farmers Markets 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 helping farmers comply with CDC recommendations to 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; • 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>Social distancing strategies are necessary to control the spread of this dangerous virus. Small and mid-sized farms that sell directly to consumers, restaurants, and farm-to-school are losing business as a result, pushing many to the edge of failure. The conventional farm safety net does not help these producers or the food hubs and other local food businesses they work with. Meanwhile, thousands of people have been laid off, and the need for emergency support—including food— is growing daily. These farms and businesses can play an important role in ensuring and expanding access to fresh, healthy foods during this public health crisis. But it can't happen without emergency support.</p> <p>SNAP and WIC We request that the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide emergency supplemental SNAP benefits to any participating SNAP household; • provide meal-replacement benefits through SNAP for households with children who would otherwise receive free- or reduced-price meals through P-EBT; • submit any other waiver requests to USDA and take advantage of any flexibility as permitted by future federal relief packages; • take steps and provide funding to implement the Elderly Supplemental Assistance Project (ESAP) as soon as possible.

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			<p>Nearly 1.3 million North Carolinians receive SNAP. Of those, almost 63% are in families with children and more than 29% are in families with elderly or disabled members. These are also the North Carolinians being most impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As businesses continue to close and schools remain shuttered, the number of North Carolinians who qualify for and rely on SNAP and WIC for food will continue to grow. The State must take every step to provide maximum benefits and flexibility and expand access to these critical programs.</p> <p>Child Nutrition Programs Now, more than ever, child nutrition programs across the state are a critical way to ensure our children have access to food. Child nutrition programs are utilizing the seamless summer meal program waiver which allows some flexibility, but the federal funding is inadequate for the cost of food, labor, and transport. Lack of funding necessitates that the programs offer fewer meal sites and methods of delivery and is particularly challenging for rural communities. School closures have also left these programs without income from paid meals, sales of a la carte items, and fee for service opportunities.</p> <p>Access to Care Too many North Carolinians living in the coverage gap will be disproportionately impacted by Covid-19. If they become sick, they will lack insurance to cover their medical costs. The Families First Coronavirus Response Act does not cover treatments, so people living in the coverage gap may be deterred from seeking treatment or face crippling medical bills. Many of those who are uninsured work in public-facing professions, with higher risks of contracting or transmitting the virus. There will also be a greater burden on North Carolina health providers as they work to provide necessary medical treatment without receiving compensation, particularly those in rural areas.</p> <p>Broadband and Access to Technology We ask the State to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 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, including farms, who are adjusting to provide virtual services. <p>High-speed internet is critical now, more than ever, to allow employees to work from home, students to continue their studies, businesses to transition their operations, and patients to receive telemedicine. It is imperative that the State remove barriers that prevent or inhibit local governments from partnering with private providers to bring better service to residents and businesses. The State must allow local governments to accept federal and nonprofit grants to make broadband-related investments, which they cannot receive under current law. These would include grants from the USDA and Golden LEAF Foundation. Additionally, these needs are urgent, so funding is needed immediately to allow this infrastructure to be put into place.</p>

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03/27/2020 03:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Brian Tomlinson	We desperately need specific website URL's posted. Start a share group with the financial resources to make it more efficient for the online application process for small business owners. Also, create posts with social media managers and page managers to schedule posts for individual aid packages from the stimulus.
03/28/2020 08:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Jacqueline Kloch	I'd like to share my support for mail-in voting in NC. Specifically, allowing people to verify their own ballot with one witness, providing pre-paid return envelopes, and counting all ballots received by election day. Every effort must be made to lower barriers and allow everyone to vote from home.
03/28/2020 01:09 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Carol Pelosi	Please consider first those people working in the restaurant and entertainment sector of the economy and help them by raising the current rate of unemployment insurance.
03/28/2020 01:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr Andrew Dalton	<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>
03/28/2020 01:35 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Johnette Fields	Please put forth good ideas for bills making sure no one falls between the cracks for unemployment insurance or health insurance in the coming days and weeks.
03/28/2020 01:39 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Clifton Lavenhouse	Now is the time to focus on the working people making sure they are taken care of.
03/28/2020 01:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group		State to State wide cleaning of the corona-virus while the community is forced to stay home. This would be the best time to sanitize prior to lifting the stay at home and work from home enforcement.
03/28/2020 02:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Jim Donnelly	<p>North Carolina is a great place to live and work. Our economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. Please make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>Our future prosperity as a state depends on our citizens being able to stay in their homes and put food on their tables; small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers— also need to 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</p>

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			<p>without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>Your leadership for North Carolina in this moment is critical - pursuing a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p> <p>Thank you for your important work! Be well.</p>
03/28/2020 02:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Michael Sileno	Please consider us public sector workers and my wife who is self-employed and can't file for unemployment, but does not have any work at this time due to hair salon shutdowns during this pandemic. We need to make sure all get the support and relief we need during this hard time. Put the people first in any relief efforts. Thank you.
03/28/2020 02:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Jeff Alguire	<p>Hello. As a citizen of North Carolina, I want to make clear that human lives should be our primary concern throughout this discussion. No matter what policies are recommended or enacted, people's health and welfare should be more important than the economy's health. We also need to listen to and act on the recommendations of our public health experts rather than unqualified opinions of any other public figure, politicians, celebrities or preachers. Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of EVERYONE, including 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>I 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>
03/28/2020 02:06 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr James Bengel	<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</p>

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			<p>institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p> <p>Much has been made of the damage to the economy, both nationally and here in the state. We're told that we cannot survive with business shuttered and unemployment skyrocketing. And that makes a good sound bite, but that's about all. Even from a purely economic standpoint, removing the guardrails that are the only thing standing between our people and a nightmare scenario straight out of The Walking Dead is short-sighted, reckless, even foolhardy. Consider the impact on an economy that depends on the consumer for 70% of its activity if the consumers are either dead or wishing they were. Do you suppose the consumer is going to be out buying houses and cars and iPhones when the choice is between that and the treatment they need to fight off a virus that has a mortality rate (in the US) roughly 4 times as high as living in a combat zone? Already too many of our citizens have to choose between their medication and food and rent. Amplify that by several orders of magnitude, and the consumer has left the marketplace. Before we can think about the business of reopening business, we must be about the business of beating COVID-19. Because until we are through to the other side of this pandemic, there IS no other priority higher. North Carolina has always been resilient, has always been tough, and we will come back from this, hopefully stronger than ever. But in order to rebuild, we must first survive.</p>
03/28/2020 02:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jerry Gershenhorn	<p>Please 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.</p>
03/28/2020 02:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Joan Brannon	<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>

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03/28/2020 02:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Kristen Hernandez	<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> <p>Please fund emergency child care efforts for essential workers (first responders, hospital staff, nursing and adult group home staff, child care program staff, food service staff, military families, utility line workers, truckers, and food delivery drivers) to help our communities stay safe and healthy. Child care providers need clear guidelines on when to stay open, how to sanitize, and what kinds of ratios to maintain during this health crisis. They also need incentives to stay open. Paying for the child care of these essential NC workers will help everyone stay healthy, safe, and secure in this time of crisis.</p>
03/28/2020 02:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Robert Hyman	<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>
03/28/2020 03:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Jacquelyn Dotson	<p>Although I copied most of this from suggestions, I agree wholeheartedly with the statements and requests made herein. My family is self-employed, and we need help now. We want all our neighbors in NC to have good health care, please expand Medicaid now. As a nurse, I can tell you that not doing so is unconscionable.</p> <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.</p> <p>Public Health Message</p> <p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social</p>

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			<p>distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response. Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p> <p>Economy Message</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> <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>
03/28/2020 03:11 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Rita Mullis	<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>
03/28/2020 03:24 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Gail Brock	<p>Please focus on providing means of a safe and dignified life for all -- health care, housing, food. People should be covered by private or public insurance or access to public clinics. They should not lose their houses or apartments because of pandemic-caused interruptions in income. Those who are now homeless should have access to safe housing not only because it is right, but because without it they will spread the disease. Either some version of food stamps or income support should make sure that families do not go hungry.</p>
03/28/2020 03:48 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Theresa Rosenberg	<p>Please take bold and sustained action to COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected</p>

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			<p>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.</p>
03/28/2020 03:49 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Stephanie Biziewski	<p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of all people, including and especially those 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, retailers, and various service providers —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>
03/28/2020 03:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. D.A. McCullough	<p>Hello:</p> <p>Thank you for investigating how best to support the citizens of N.C. during this time of crisis. For those citizens who are daily going out to keep our cities and essential businesses functioning, we must make sure they have the money to keep feeding and sheltering themselves and their families along with receiving healthcare. For those citizens who have been forced to close their businesses and for those employees laid off or without work as a result, we also must make sure they have continued income for food, shelter and healthcare needs. The Department of Revenue should have a record of who needs the most assistance along with social security records. We don't need to leave any citizen behind who was already being left behind in an economy that was not working fairly for all. Put in place a mandate to stop anyone from being evicted during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Doesn't everyone need a home? Inject more capital into making sure citizens and their families can get food without being made to feel like they are beggars or leaches. Doesn't everyone need to eat? The system indeed has had structural and discriminatory elements all along that have favored some over others (why do people who already have a whole lot of money get more opportunities and privileges over those who are still working hard to just live?). In effect, use your hearts, empathy, compassion and not just DOLLAR SENSE.</p> <p>In appreciation for realizing that we are all literally the same when it comes to needing</p>

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03/28/2020 03:55 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. D.A. McCullough	<p>essentials and sharing what we have in order to have a society of healthy, vibrant, caring citizens...</p> <p>D.A. McCullough, NC citizen</p> <p>Hello:</p> <p>Thank you for investigating how best to support the citizens of N.C. during this time of crisis. For those citizens who are daily going out to keep our cities and essential businesses functioning, we must make sure they have the money to keep feeding and sheltering themselves and their families along with receiving healthcare. For those citizens who have been forced to close their businesses and for those employees laid off or without work as a result, we also must make sure they have continued income for food, shelter and healthcare needs. The Department of Revenue should have a record of who needs the most assistance along with social security records. We don't need to leave any citizen behind who was already being left behind in an economy that was not working fairly for all. Put in place a mandate to stop anyone from being evicted during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Doesn't everyone need a home? Inject more capital into making sure citizens and their families can get food without being made to feel like they are beggars or leaches. Doesn't everyone need to eat? The system indeed has had structural and discriminatory elements all along that have favored some over others (why do people who already have a whole lot of money get more opportunities and privileges over those who are still working hard to just live?). In effect, use your hearts, empathy, compassion and not just DOLLAR SENSE.</p> <p>In appreciation for realizing that we are all literally the same when it comes to needing essentials and sharing what we have in order to have a society of healthy, vibrant, caring citizens...</p> <p>D.A. McCullough, NC citizen</p>
03/28/2020 04:13 PM	Economic Support Working Group	NC Voter mitchell price	The changes the GOP made under McCrory to unemployment insurance need to be undone. We need unemployment payouts for 26 weeks like the majority of other states.
03/28/2020 04:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Louis Gadol	The least expensive, most effective, and quickest thing you can do is pass legislation that expands Medicaid under the ACA, like most other states. Doing so would allow poor people to get health care and keep their jobs without going hungry and losing their housing. You should also raise our minimum wage to \$15/hour for all, including those in the food industry. Paid sick days and sick leave would provide economic support when employees are unable to work and decrease virus transmission at their work places; this would help small businesses continue to operate. You should end the practice of shell companies buying mortgage debt and evicting those who got behind in their payments, and provide reconstructed, low-interest mortgages for the inhabitants. All of these things would strengthen and stabilize North Carolina's economy.
03/28/2020 04:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Charles Keeling	<p>People First Message</p> <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</p>

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			<p>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.</p> <p>Public Health Message</p> <p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response.</p> <p>Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p> <p>Economy Message</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> <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>

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03/28/2020 05:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Becky LedBetter	As a country, state or local municipality the citizens of North Carolina have never had to face anything like this pandemic we are now immersed in. The uncertainty weighs heavily with everyone. 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.
03/28/2020 06:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Martin Wilcox	I hope you will 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. 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. Please act 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 we cannot afford not to.
03/28/2020 06:58 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Shel Anderson	I am concerned that legislation does not seem to be forthcoming to support real mom & pop business in NC. We need good and easily accessible unemployment insurance, of course, but we also need an agency which can help truly small business get the help they need. Not everyone can manage threading through complex agency requirements, you know.
03/28/2020 07:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Pamela Culp	<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.</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</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>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>I 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. As North Carolinians are healthy so will be our economic recovery. Thank you.</p>
03/28/2020 08:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Anne Cassebaum	<p>I am asking you to respond to the COVID-19 crisis that ensures all people in this state are protected.</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 keep them feed and secure.</p> <p>We need to make sure everyone has food on the table, a safe shelter and freedom to visit doctors without fear of not having enough money or not being U.S. citizens.. What will you do to protect people in this crisis?</p>
03/28/2020 08:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Janice Sears	Please focus on supporting our citizens with economic aid, medical support, and safety.
03/28/2020 08:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Board Member-NCRPA Brian Silva	<p>Licensed Firearms and Ammunition Dealers need to be deemed an essential business. This was overlooked by the executive branch in the Governors Executive Order.</p> <p>Many citizens in Wake County can not purchase handguns because the Sheriff will not process purchase permits. This prevents those who did not have a purchase permit prior to the Sheriff's order from legally obtaining a handgun. This needs to be corrected through legislation or it is clearly a violation of the 2nd Ammendment and the NC Constitution. The elimination of the redundant purchase permit would resolve this issue, at least during a state of emergency.</p> <p>Concealed Carry Permits are not being processed because there is not an exception to the fingerprint requirement. The fingerprint requirment should be suspended during a state of emergency. This clause is preventing permits including emergency order permits from being issued.</p>
03/28/2020 10:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Nancy Brown	We the people are having problems out here and need your attention NOW. There are the poor, the middle class and the wealthy. We all need equal voice. We count, and we vote.
03/29/2020 08:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Tikki Foy	<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</p>

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			needs—a focus on what people need to be well.
03/29/2020 08:49 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. William Hunter	Focus on people first. Go back to reasonable unemployment benefits.
03/29/2020 09:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Lee Nackman	<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>
03/29/2020 10:29 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Zachary Kopkin	<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>People in jails and prisons also must be kept safe from COVID-19 to prevent rapid spread. The following steps are crucial to keeping them and our communities safe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commuting sentences for older and vulnerable citizens with compromised immune systems, anyone who is within 12 months of release from their active sentence, and to anyone currently being held on a technical violation of probation or parole. - Expediting mass release of those permanently disabled, geriatric or terminally ill through the Department of Public Safety's Home Leave program and Transition Services. - Expediting the review of people eligible for parole, particularly those over 65 years of age. <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.</p>
03/29/2020 10:42 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Andrea Kurtz	I work at United Way in Forsythe County, this crisis has hit low and moderate income working people so hard, so fast, the human services can't keep up with the calls. We need relief focused on direct aid to low and moderate income so they can maintain their housing, health care access to food. We also financial help for the human services who

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			are overwhelmed by the class for help with basic needs for food , housing and health care.
03/29/2020 11:57 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Patti Mason	Only funding for DIRECT COVID-19 issues should be allowed at this point - no tangential items. Stay focused. Also, funding from Feds to the State for Hurricane Flo need to be released to the Counties immediately and out of the State holdings so execution of those funds could help as well.
03/29/2020 12:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Patrick Conway	It is critical that the North Carolina legislature act now to accommodate the support that the Federal Government is willing to provide the unemployed, particularly independent contractors and gig workers, during the current emergency. Please act to support the people of North Carolina at this critical point in history. Bring the legislature back into session and pass a set of proposals to reform the unemployment-insurance system: it is not only good economic policy, but it is also an immediate benefit to our citizens suffering from the shut-down.