

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/08/2020 05:56 PM	Education Working Group	Jane Barnett-Lawrence	We MUST expand internet service to students. I believe it should be a right or at least subsidized for students. I am in a more rural county where the suburban side all has internet access, more or less, but the rural side has unreliable internet or none at all. My students cannot always get rides back to school or to the other hotspots to sit in a parking lot and attend the Zoom classes. They deserve the same access to what 80 percent of my students have. Please help them.
04/09/2020 12:13 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Amy Hawkins ND	<p>Re: Naturopathic Doctors Can Help Fill the Healthcare Workforce Shortage During the COVID-19 Crisis</p> <p>Dear Chairpersons and Members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19,</p> <p>At the federal level, policy makers and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are making sweeping changes to immediately expand the healthcare workforce. We understand the need to make similar changes in North Carolina. In this vein, the North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians (NCANP) is grateful for the inclusion in Executive Order 121 which designates Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) as essential healthcare workers in North Carolina. Naturopathic Doctors are trained in 4-year, accredited Naturopathic Medical programs as doctoral level general practice healthcare providers and, with your approval, can be immediately engaged in the COVID-19 response to the full extent of their training and education.</p> <p>With the anticipation of COVID-19 reaching its peak over the coming weeks, the NCANP would like to express the strong desire of our Naturopathic Doctors to help provide safe and effective healthcare for the residents of North Carolina. The full utilization of Naturopathic Doctors in North Carolina would help provide relief to our overburdened health care system and help reduce the morbidity and mortality that COVID-19 will bring to our communities. There are three primary areas where your committee could facilitate this relief:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow current Naturopathic Doctors Licensure legislation that is pending in the NC House of Representatives (H993/S573) to be passed so that more healthcare providers are immediately deployed in North Carolina. This pending legislation was drafted consistent with the recommendations set forth in the NCDHHS Recommendations for Appropriate Oversight and Regulation of the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine in North Carolina Report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on January 15, 2018. The work group was convened under the direction of Dr. Mandy Cohen and Walker Wilson, and included representatives from the NC Medical Society, NC Medical Board, and NCANP. It was the "position of the work group that the passage of licensure legislation will benefit the citizens of North Carolina by allowing them to enjoy the full benefit of healthcare options provided by qualified Naturopathic Doctors." It is important to note that in states where Naturopathic Doctors are currently licensed, they are providing triage and testing for suspected COVID-19 cases, palliative care for mild COVID-19 cases, and close monitoring so as to engage EMS and emergency department care rapidly when needed.

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			<p>2. Include Naturopathic Doctors with out-of-state licensure to be included in the waiver of NC licensure requirements referred to in Section 16 of Executive Order 116. Currently, Naturopathic Doctors are licensed in 22 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Naturopathic Doctors are already in place in North Carolina who are licensed in other states and jurisdictions and are trained as general practice healthcare providers. With a temporary waiver of NC licensure requirements and recognition of out-of-state licenses, these Naturopathic Doctors can be immediately engaged to help patients follow public health recommendations and abide by stay-at-home orders, assist with phone triage and order appropriate testing, help patients manage mild COVID-19 symptoms safely at home, and provide ongoing care to patients with other acute and chronic illnesses that still occur during a pandemic and are best kept out of urgent care facilities. Including NDs in the waiver will also allow mobilization of out-of-state Naturopathic Doctors as part of the healthcare workforce if the situation escalates to that level in our state.</p> <p>3. Issue guidelines or orders for out-of-state licensed Naturopathic Doctors, including those with temporary emergency licensure, to be able to register with the State Medical Response System (SMRS) as clinical providers. This would allow for assignment to the COVID-19 Medical Response Team and other teams such as the Capitol Medical Reserve Corps. Several of our NDs in NC have already registered with SMRS, but are limited in their capacity to serve due to a lack of recognition of their out-of-state licenses.</p> <p>To summarize, the NCANP asks you to utilize Naturopathic Doctors to the full extent of our education and training so that we can best serve our communities during the COVID-19 crisis. With our expertise in preventive medicine and patient-centered care, NDs are an essential component of a comprehensive healthcare system. Our Naturopathic Doctors are trained healthcare professionals who can be immediately engaged to assist the healthcare workforce in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask you to please support Naturopathic Doctors in helping to save lives in our state.</p> <p>The North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians thanks you for your dedicated service and efforts in these trying times.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dr. Amy Hawkins ND, President North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians phone 910.367.5150 email drhawkinsnd@gmail.com</p>
04/09/2020 05:00 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Cassandra Brooks	<p>The issue many of the frontline childcare workers which is decreasing daily have is their coworkers have applied for unemployment. They chose not to work during this time due to the medical risk factors which affects 90 percent of childcare workers due to many not having insurance.</p> <p>The ones applying for unemployment will receive a \$600.00 week in addition to normal</p>

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04/09/2020 10:40 AM	Education Working Group	NC School Psychology Assn Rachel Beaulieu/ Lobbyist for NC School Psychology Association	<p>NC School Psychology Association</p> <p>NCSPA Supports Telepsychology Services for Our School Children March 29, 2020</p> <p>The North Carolina School Psychology Association (NCSPA) urgently supports School Psychologists' provision of Telepsychology Services to our students. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, NCSPA respectfully and immediately requests the following for School Psychologists' enhanced, immediate and ongoing delivery of Telepsychology services to all our students (both with and without disabilities) in an effort to address their increasing mental health and social emotional learning needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorize expansion of and compensation for licensed NC School Psychologists to serve additional students across school-district lines through Telepsychology. The problem now is that approximately 72 NC School Systems do not have even 1 (full-time) employed School Psychologist?. This translates into tens of thousands of children without access to such services, at a time when they need it most, and compounded by dire projections of mental health needs in the weeks and months ahead of us. Such state licensure expansions could also allow for much-needed mentoring and support for current School Psychology interns and early career School Psychologists as they navigate challenging times within their respective school systems. 2. Authorize necessary statewide supports for School Telepsychology: special student needs, such as required equipment and services that current school supplies may not offer, for those students without internet access and who may or may not have a disability. 3. Enact special incentives, School Psychology Recruitment tools, including bonuses and/

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04/09/2020 10:45 AM	Health Care Working Group	NC School Psychology Assn Rachel Beaulieu/ Lobbyist for NC School Psychology Association	<p>NCSPA Supports Telepsychology Services for Our School Children March 29, 2020</p> <p>The North Carolina School Psychology Association (NCSPA) urgently supports School Psychologists’ provision of Telepsychology Services to our students. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, NCSPA respectfully and immediately requests the following for School Psychologists’ enhanced, immediate and ongoing delivery of Telepsychology services to all our students (both with and without disabilities) in an effort to address their increasing mental health and social emotional learning needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Authorize expansion of and compensation for licensed NC School Psychologists to serve additional students across school-district lines through Telepsychology. The

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04/09/2020 11:30 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Peggy Link Weil	Please allow mail in voting!!!