

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

| Date Submitted      | Category                | Name                 | Comments  |
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| 04/12/2020 06:37 PM | Education Working Group | Ms Carla Lilley      | We need to take all funding possible and put it into public education. Immediately defund any and all Charter Schools that are failing after two or three years. Take Back Public Education. Give teachers the salaries they deserve. Require mental health professional(s) at each and every school. Teach Peace, Compassion and non-violence. Get guns out of schools. Figure out a way to stop school violence long before it starts. Increase the number of teachers. Fully Fund Education in order to stop the school to prison pipeline! No more public money to private schools and absolutely none to religious schools (remember separation of church and state?)  |
| 04/13/2020 10:46 AM | Education Working Group | Mrs. April Bowers    | I'm asking that achievement testing for homeschoolers be waived this year, just as it has been for all public schools. These uncertain times (during COVID-19) have the same effects on homeschoolers as they do on public school students. Many circumstances need to be addressed such as financial, emotional and safety concerns to name a few. Please consider waiving the testing for NC Homeschoolers.   |
| 04/13/2020 11:50 AM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Mary McCandless | <p>REOPEN NC</p> <p>Now is the time to declare victory over Covid-19 and open up the NC economy and let the people go back to work. We've had less than 100 casualties on a population of 10.38M people. We destroyed our economy to save .001% of the people. Great decision-making skills from the Gov's staff in Raleigh when he did not consult the Council of State about this decision.</p> <p>The other reason I want you to open up the state is to save the ones most vulnerable to its closing. I support a first-grade teacher in a Lexington City school with money several times a year so that she can buy supplies, clothes, food and snacks, prizes for the goodie box and books for the children. They come from very poor households. She gets every child to grade-reading level by June each year, but I have worried about her students at home.</p> <p>One comes to school each morning dead tired. She stays awake at night to make sure she is safe from the drugheads in her home. The teacher has created a safe place for her to sleep in the morning at school and then she teaches her one on one later in the day once she is rested enough to learn.</p> <p>Many of her students only have the two meals a day provided at school. She stuffs their book bags on Fridays to help tie them over on the weekend. I have wondered if any of the adults in their lives bothered to find them food.</p> <p>Some of the children come to school in filthy clothes. The teacher provides them with clean clothes that she purchases at thrift stores and washes the others. Funny how the adults in these children's lives never comment on them coming home in something different.</p> <p>These children and their families live in deep poverty. Their jobs may not be essential and</p> |

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|                     |                         |                 | <p>they certainly aren't ones that can be worked remotely, but then consider those families that have raised themselves just above the poverty line – the hairdressers, waitresses, OR nurses that were furloughed because of empty hospitals and delayed surgeries, dental hygienists that have been laid off – and so many others. You've created a whole new group of poor children with this shut down. Will you count their casualties as Covid?</p> <p>REOPEN NC!</p>  |
| 04/13/2020 12:01 PM | Education Working Group | Sandra Gordon   | By having the state closed, you are doing more harm than good. Please save our state, restore our constitutional rights, and REOOPEN OUR STATE NOW!!   |
| 04/13/2020 12:14 PM | Education Working Group | Shelley Skinner | Keep doing what you are doing and keeping us and our kids safe!  |
| 04/13/2020 12:16 PM | Education Working Group | Shelley Skinner | Keep doing what you're doing to keep kids and families safe!   |
| 04/13/2020 12:31 PM | Education Working Group | Gary Sides      | <p>Sir- Madam</p> <p>My name is Gary Sides and I serve on the Union County Board of Education. We need to re-open NC.</p> <p>I respectfully request that the Governor and the state re-open schools after the current May 15 closer date if not sooner.</p> <p>Among other things the initial modeling of the effects of the COVID 19 virus have been wildly inaccurate.</p>   |
| 04/13/2020 12:38 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Sue Smith   | I am a college professor (and am working on my doctorate). I'm concerned what the shutdown has done/is doing/will do for students who are conscientious and dedicated. I'm concerned for their parents who feel anxiety because of this. I am also concerned that my instruction that was geared for seated classes isn't as effective for the students who have learning disabilities that make online learning difficult. Along with that, I don't like the idea of taking the classes I need for my doctorate online because the classes are more seminar structured. It's time to reopen NC and be productive. The numbers haven't aligned with predictions for the coronavirus; actually, the numbers are in favoring of getting people's livelihoods back and NC moving in a better financial direction.   |
| 04/13/2020 01:15 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Jane Warren | It is time to make adjustments to our current restrictions. Everyone has been educated on COVID 19 and those who are most vulnerable (65 years old and up and those with pre-existing conditions) should protect themselves. All healthcare should re-open, practicing preventive measures, so everyone can receive the healthcare they need. Our economic situation must be addressed immediately before further damage occur. Businesses should be allowed to re-open, practicing preventive measures. Schools should be re-opened. Our students are one of the lowest risk for COVID 19, yet at the highest risk for other factors, like poverty, abuse, etc. Last year, it was the hurricane and this year it is the virus. We must intervene for our children and their total health (physical, mental, emotional and academics). Continue to restrict our travel, especially abroad, and restrict international travel, for a season but let us re-open our economy. Dr. Greg Murphy, our congressman, had great suggestions. And, perhaps most importantly, this process must be quick and not another victim of the political process. We have dug a very deep hole for ourselves (printing and promises money we do not have, driving us deeper in debt), for an illness that has taken far less lives than other illnesses (example, cancer, flu, etc) every |

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|                     |                         |                          | day. Since the COVID numbers are trending down, let us re-open our economy and give us a chance to fill in this hole before this hole swallows us up.   |
| 04/13/2020 01:32 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Michele Pellock      | As a fitness instructor at a YMCA in Rowan County I am very concerned about the restrictions that have been placed on our facility and our members. We play a pivotal role in the health and well being of countless youth, seniors, and families in our community. The inability to provide classes and services to them has been very difficult physically, mentally, and emotionally. I feel strongly that, given the opportunity, we could resume services in a responsible fashion to protect members, instructors, and staff.   |
| 04/13/2020 01:37 PM | Education Working Group | Loy Kho                  | From 10,490,000 population, we have less than 5,000 Covid-19 cases, and less than 100 people died. My teenage child has been staying inside and social distancing since March 14, 2020. My favorite restaurant closed. My hair dresser cannot cut my hair. My nail salon closed down. I cannot meet my friends at Starbucks, I cannot go to church and worship. My nurses friends are under employed. I don't need to fill my car's gas tank although the gas price is the lowest since 2007. I need NC to reopen everything. Covid-19 symptom is already treatable. Covid-19 is not the only cause of death. We have swine flu, cancer, hepatitis, HIV, cardiac issues, diabetes, and the list can go on. We cannot live in unreasonable fear. |
| 04/13/2020 02:32 PM | Education Working Group | claudia koonz            | Oregon can do it. North Carolina can manage it. Voting by mail is the ONLY safe and secure method for a fair election. Please support vote by mail in November.   |
| 04/13/2020 02:47 PM | Education Working Group | Mr. Samuel Tripp         | We need to open NC back up!   |
| 04/13/2020 02:56 PM | Education Working Group | Re-open NC Cassie Golden | We the people are urging you to re-open North Carolina by May 1st. The numbers do not reflect the need for further action. This shut down will continue to devastate the economy and small businesses.  |