

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/14/2020 03:03 PM	Education Working Group	Afraid of 2nd Wave Emily Martine	I have two high school aged kids and an underlying autoimmune condition that puts me at great risk if I get COVID. I also have elderly parents who are vulnerable. I am very afraid of a second wave hitting next fall after the kids go back to school and before we have a vaccine. I would like options for those of us who are willing to keep our kids home longer to protect vulnerable family members. I would not mind more online instruction or a "gap" year while I home school them. I realize many kids need to go back to school because it provides free childcare and free lunches, but I encourage you to please provide options for those of us who don't need those social services and don't want to risk our health and lives. Thank you.
04/14/2020 04:46 PM	Education Working Group	Gov coopers resignation j c	WE The People of NC, for violation of oath of office, and the infringement of our constitutional rights, seek the immediate resignation and removal of the tyrannical democratic governor of NC Roy Cooper. You are not the voice of the people and have violated and infringed upon the very constitution that you swore to uphold protect and defend.
04/14/2020 05:46 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Janice Smith	Our country is only strong when the health and education of all people of addressed. Therefore, providing Medicaid increase, provide the opportunity for all children 4 years to be enrolled in a quality pre-k learning environment. Further emphasis in accountability of both parents and educators so all children receive a quality educational experience. Improvement in evaluating teacher effectiveness so it promotes educational advancement for all. Finally, utilizing qualified educators yo mentor, train and evaluate teaching staff so mediocrity does not be considered enough. Our children and this nation deserve better educated children so they can meet the job requirements. Let's stop system-wide, racial - wide and exclusive learning standards. We are at risk of too many jail, and not enough education.
04/14/2020 08:17 PM	Education Working Group	Patricia Campbell	It is time to reopen the state of NC. It is neither wise nor healthy to have people confined to their homes when they can be out doing productive work. It is not wise to make arbitrary decisions about what is 'essential', depriving people of their own free choices. As a person who has lived in depressed areas (due to unemployment), I have seen the resulting alcoholism and suicides first hand. Our state deserves better than that. Please open safely and shortly.
04/14/2020 11:39 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Traci Veenstra	Make sure that there are safe working conditions before opening schools. There are many high risk staff members. Do all you can to support students living in poverty while we are out. Ensure that all staff are paid. They are all working hard to support distance education.
04/15/2020 01:31 AM	Education Working Group	Mr Joseph Bryan	Investigate doctors signing Death Certificates under CDC guidelines requiring them to assign COVID-19 as Cause of Death disregarding long tern health problems.
04/15/2020 02:56 AM	Education Working Group	Tracey Bass	Mandatory vaccination is un-American. VACCINES will NEVER eradicate a virus, especially one that has changed multiple times since its discovery in late 2019. The ONLY way out of this it TRUE herd immunity... not fake vaccine induced 'immunity' that wear off. Develop programs to help support those who have weak immune systems, and stop scaring the public. Vaccines will not do that. And if you feel a vaccine is non-negotiable - make sure the manufacturer can be held liable for any and all injuries."
04/15/2020 07:14 AM	Education Working	Ms Catherine Hart	Eventhough my daughter is missing key senior events, if lifting stay at home orders are

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	Group		lifted too soon, she may miss her graduation. Staying home at least through the end of April is having the desired effect. We simply don't have enough information about this virus to risk the lives of North Carolinians. Please keep stay at home in place until May 1 and, if safely possible, allow for high school graduation; for some this is their only graduation.
04/15/2020 07:28 AM	Education Working Group	Mr James Higginbotham	We need to start opening back up the economy of NC. This pandemic has not hit nearly as bad as the "experts" have predicted and it's time to start on May 1 with precautions to open our state back up.
04/15/2020 09:21 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Dana Bango	Don't be swayed by people who want to reopen NC too soon. They don't have everyone's best interests at heart. Also expanding Medicaid should be looked at again. You are hurting more than 100,000 low income working people by being too stubborn to provide affordable health care. It's not in the interest of the general welfare. Thank you.
04/15/2020 09:44 AM	Education Working Group	Donna Branham	Opening everything back up in NC too soon would be a death sentence to many people. Our numbers of positive Covid-19 tests and deaths continues to rise daily. Our state has not peaked yet! As much as I'd like to go back to living my life, I'm not willing to risk my health or the health of my love ones. "Stay at Home" is the only option right now!
04/15/2020 09:51 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Karen Moorefield	Please do not put my life on the line by sending me back into a classroom where I have no control over whom walks into my room carrying this virus, knowingly or unknowingly. I am the primary caregiver for two people over 70, both with serious health issues.
04/15/2020 10:22 AM	Education Working Group	Dr. Deborah Greene	I am extremely concerned about reopening too early. I am a middle school educator, and as much as I love my children and want to see them, they are germy and I am immune-compromised. My husband is considered "essential," and he works in a call center where they don't practice social distancing; nor do they provide masks or gloves. We are already risking ourselves in order to maintain his income. I don't want to risk my life because people are impatient and make decisions that are not based on science.
04/15/2020 10:32 AM	Education Working Group	Beverley Fisher	I understand that we need to get the economy moving, but I don't think it should be at the risk of lives. Please do not succumb to the pressure of those that want to re-open N.C. too soon. This virus is dangerous and no one yet knows when they have been exposed and when they can transmit it to others. Pkk OK ease gave the appropriate measures in place and available before considering re-opening the state on even a small scale. We do not want to have to start all over. Enough lives have been list with many more to come.
04/15/2020 10:33 AM	Education Working Group	Marsha Dunn	As a high school educator and mother of a high school senior, I think we should be very cautious about opening too early just to stimulate the economy and for people to work again. My mother is a hair dresser with her own salon. She is also 71 as are most of her clients. Say, for example, I visited her salon and was infected without knowing it. I have now passed that along not only to my mother, but to all of her clients and their families as well. Do we want to take that risk with the health of those in our state? The logistics of reopening schools is a nightmare. Imagine trying to get kindergartners to social distance. Just the meal planning and cafeteria limits alone would be all but impossible. Do not make this more stressful to those on the front lines of education. Our students and educators are already stressed enough with the suddenness of moving from physical buildings to a computer or device at home. I personally would not want my son to go to school before this is well controlled and testing is widely available. Please do not give in

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			to public pressure or the pockets of some of the members in your own general assembly.
04/15/2020 10:39 AM	Education Working Group	MS Laura Chappell	Please continue the stay at home ordinance as long as possible. We need this time to keep our health care workers, front line response teams, children, senior citizens and critically ill people safe. We are not in normal times nor should people pretend and propose that we should resume business as usual. This is a deadly virus that our scientists need time to research for a cure, or at least a vaccine and the necessary medications to fight it. Please, do not lift the ban just to mollify people. This is not the time to socialize but the time to keep lives safe. Safe at home means less lives at risk in North Carolina.
04/15/2020 11:08 AM	Education Working Group	Jan Pittman	Listen to the epidemiologists and let them take the lead on this one. Stay closed for now.
04/15/2020 11:17 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Erin Edwards	I heartily recommend that until there is a vaccine or effective treatments available that educators and students not return to school. My child and myself are in the highest risk groups. There is no way to socially distance in the school setting.. Please consider safety of staff and students when making decisions about when to return to school. I much prefer to be in the classroom, but we must be safe. Thank you for your consideration.
04/15/2020 11:51 AM	Education Working Group	Cheryl Blankenship	It is important to continue to shelter in place to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. There are many vulnerable citizens, particularly seniors, who must be protected
04/15/2020 11:55 AM	Education Working Group	Annette Sheppard	Continue the stay at home order.
04/15/2020 12:09 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Regina Smardon	If you send the public school students back to school before testing and contact tracing is in place, I will keep my daughter home.
04/15/2020 12:20 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Janis Henderson	Please use facts and data from your health and safety experts to determine when to lift the stay at home ban. Please do not reopen schools until we have widespread testing available to ensure that teachers, staff and students are not asymptomatic carriers.
04/15/2020 12:25 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Cinnamon Frame	It is essential that the Governor's stay at home orders be supported by the state legislature. Now is not the time to play politics. Listen to the health care experts and keep the stay at home mandate in place until widespread antibody testing can occur. Please do not give in to a bunch of conspiracy theorists and open too early. Thousands will die if we open too early.
04/15/2020 12:30 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Jeff Rabon	We need education vouchers. Let parents spend money on their children's education the way they deem fit. Market competition will vie for access to those vouchers in the way that a true free market economy is supposed to operate. We don't need state run education.
04/15/2020 12:39 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Sarah Gulley	Epidemiologists say that the way that we know that we have succeeded is that people will start to think that we overreacted. Governor Cooper's initiatives have been working. Please let them continue. I say this as a teacher who is absolutely struggling with distance learning, knowing that I am not serving all of my students' needs at this time (to say nothing of my own children who are also home with us right now since daycare is closed). But this is a matter of medical urgency--I am not willing to sacrifice lives (either of those whom I know and love or those whom I don't know) for the sake of the economy. I am especially unwilling to sacrifice the lives and well-beings of medical professionals, janitors, grocery clerks, and all other essential employees, as if their deaths and hospitalizations

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			won't hurt the economy. There is no getting back to normal from here, but working together we can show that we are able to build something together.
04/15/2020 12:54 PM	Education Working Group	Citizen NC Victoria Robertson	Please pay attention to the demands of NC People's Platform for Social and Economic Survival and Beyond Us. 198 organizations
04/15/2020 01:13 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Lucy Rodriguez	Please don't reopen NC until is safe , have enough testing and be able to isolate cases. We trust you Governor Cooper, you have don't better than many
04/15/2020 01:13 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Lucy Rodriguez	Please don't reopen NC until is safe , have enough testing and be able to isolate cases. We trust you Governor Cooper, you have don't better than many
04/15/2020 01:32 PM	Education Working Group	Keep it CLOSED Hannah Rouse	<p>Please do NOT cave to pressures from small groups such as ReOpen NC. People's lives are at stake, and that is SO much more important than the inconvenience or even the financial impacts, to those people who are more concerned about themselves than about others' safety.</p> <p>I would NOT like to see NC "opened" back up, and I would not and will not spend any money at any newly opened businesses if the state decides to allow these few illogical requests to dictate the possible health consequences to the majority of the state's residents.</p> <p>Our essential employees are the backbone of this community, and are keeping our state running despite the closures of many businesses and places. If those essential employees were to become ill due to an accelerated spread after allowing freedom of movement to all or even most residents, they are not replaceable! Not to their families, not to their workplaces, and not to the state.</p> <p>Please consider the worst case possible health impacts to our communities and err on the side of caution, not finance. Thank you.</p>
04/15/2020 01:48 PM	Education Working Group	Kimberly Lang	<p>Thank you for accepting comments. Me: classroom teacher, high-risk for complications (despite being young, fit, overall healthy), had negative-COVID 19 antibody test this week. I am happily compliant to all data- and science-informed orders, and will continue to be.</p> <p>As we plan for the upcoming school year, I and others like me are very concerned about the risks I face until a treatment or vaccine is found. I hope that creative (even if inconvenient) options for reopening schools are being considered. In particular, have you considered a hybrid (half-online, half-off) approach to school for four days a week, with three days to clear and disinfect buildings? Now that we have somewhat built capacity to teach and learn remotely, I wonder if this could be a possibility--or of districts could be empowered to structure their school weeks in ways that meet their capacity.</p> <p>Additionally, I would like reassurance that I am allowed to wear a mask while doing ALL work-related functions, as I am exposed to people all day. We should not be subject to any sort of discriminatory actions because we make this wise choice in doing our work.</p>
04/15/2020 02:08 PM	Education Working Group	Dorothy Eubanks	Please DO NOT "reopenNC". Everyone needs to stay home to break the infection chain. Do you see how nursing homes and rehab centers are becoming hotspots of infection? Think about schools where there isn't enough room to stay 6 feet away from each other in a

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			classroom and no trained medical personnel. No PPE...even thinking about reopening anything before we have sufficient tests to see who is carrying the virus will send endanger everyone.
04/15/2020 02:43 PM	Education Working Group	David Anderson	<p>The Washington Post dated 4/13/2020 reported that due to Covid-19, millions of students will suffer from school closures. Based on the experience from Covid-19, we are requesting that the NCGA fund a major investment in NC students by funding a supportive technology infrastructure for schools and students to develop a remote Distance – Learning Model. This model would make available a continuum of learning opportunities and services for students regardless of location, and socio-economic status, as part of NC's disaster preparation. With the possibility that occurrences like the COVID 19 can occur again, wouldn't it make sense to develop and implement a system for all schools to use that would provide a continuation of education and related services for students, should the need arise? Continuity of education and related services for students should be a priority, as these young people are our future.</p> <p>Right now, as in many cities and communities throughout the US, not every child has access to a computer and / or the internet at home to be able to access distance-learning education. This needs to change, and can be by creating partnerships between the school system(s) and telecommunication. For example, MCPS in Maryland and FCPS in Virginia, school systems are partnering with telecommunication companies (Verizon, AT &T, etc...) to provide basic internet access in student homes that have no internet. School systems are loaning chromebooks (Acer computers) that are signed out to each student to be used during this remote distance learning period. The New York Times, and other businesses are offering support, access, and monies to communities that need help in setting up these distance-learning systems. MCPS and FCPS have been very creative in developing / presenting online curriculum using different programs and platforms, some of which include, but are not limited to Google Classroom, Zoom, MY MCPSPortal (MCPS), Blackboard, etc.. Challenging times call for creativity, resourcefulness, and partnering to set up programs by which ALL students from pre-K through grade 12, have the opportunity to learn – albeit in a nontraditional way. By ensuring every student has these basic technological tools, it also ensures every family is connected to school and resources. This needs to be implemented before the next disaster pandemic – as soon as possible.</p>
04/15/2020 02:43 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Lisa Blair	We cannot lift the "lockdown" too soon. If we do, there will be a huge spike in infections and deaths. The flattening of the curve is working, but we have to stay the course.
04/15/2020 02:49 PM	Education Working Group	Stay home! Kelly Carter	Keep the stay at home order in place!