

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

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 04/16/2020 03:02 PM | Education Working Group | Ms Ana Rivera | I work in the private sector of education and would like to get back to work before I lose my children and employment. |
| 04/16/2020 03:02 PM | Education Working Group | Amy Wilson | ReOpen NC. The people need need to get back to work to prevent the economy from imploding. Our children are missing out on education widening the achievement gap between wealthy and poor families. |
| 04/16/2020 03:09 PM | Education Working Group | Pam Panaccione | Re-open N.C. you have no right to keep us locked down. |
| 04/16/2020 03:10 PM | Education Working Group | Pam Panaccione | Re-open N.C. you have no right to keep us locked down. |
| 04/16/2020 03:14 PM | Education Working Group | Pass/Fail Policy Mackenzie Roach | I believe that high schools switching to mandatory pass/fail policy is a huge mistake and will hurt students grade 9-11. By making the pass/fail mandatory for everyone, you limit the hard working students from raising their GPA and decrease their incentive to actually learn the classroom material. Instead, you give them an opportunity to be lazier and not learn the information just to receive a passing grade that will have no effect on anything. The NC Board of Education should make the pass/fail policy optional, such as most colleges are implementing. In this case, a student could work for the grades they want, and after the semester is over, if they do not like some of their grades, they can choose to enact pass/fail for those classes. Under this policy, students can choose to keep the classes' grades that they want to keep. For students grade 9-11, this would help them in their college search process by possibly increasing their GPA, and therefore college options. The mandatory pass/fail policy only hinders these students and limits their opportunities to excel in high school. These are critical years for building their resume for college, and the mandatory pass/fail option is severely hurting students that are trying to go to college. |
| 04/16/2020 03:18 PM | Education Working Group | Alecia English | My son has 6 months left before his 3rd birthday when myelination will be complete and his brain will be less plastic the rest of his life. He had extensive brain surgery at Duke 2 years ago. All his in-person therapies have been cancelled. We have worked so hard on his recovery and we need his therapists back in his natural environment helping in this precious time. All children ages 0-3 are in a critical period that we cannot get back after myelination. Reopen as soon as possible! |
| 04/16/2020 03:35 PM | Education Working Group | Realtor Lisa Rosencrans | We need the state open to continue our livelihood. We have survived many deadly pandemics without losing our jobs. We need to pay our bills, go to work and get our economy back. This is no time for politics. People are so stressed from being without income and the mere self-esteem bring employed brings. Please get this open! Respectfully submitted, Lisa & Eric Rosencrans |
| 04/16/2020 03:49 PM | Education Working Group | Open NC NOW! Kimberly B | Open NC NOW! |
| 04/16/2020 03:53 PM | Education Working | Julia Walsh | Good Afternoon, |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------------|--|
| | Group | | <p>As a parent of elementary students, I am looking for them to return to school because the learning they receive there is a much higher quality than the remote learning at home. The teachers are more available to extend learning and meet the needs of all students (including special needs children). While my children are doing okay at home, and the teachers have been very supportive, it is NOT a substitute for attending school.</p> <p>Children are losing valuable education, and if waiting until the fall to return to school, there will be many challenges to overcome. Additionally, there are many students who are in unsafe environments as well.</p> <p>I look forward to the day that my children can return to school as well as the rest of the students in North Carolina. None of our kids had closure to this current school year and that would be something that would be helpful for them during this challenging time.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p> <p>Julia Mooresville, NC</p> |
| 04/16/2020 04:08 PM | Education Working Group | Business owner Beverly Reddinger | Let's open the date you stated! Keep those vulnerable isolated! |
| 04/16/2020 04:26 PM | Education Working Group | Jody Boone | Please open NC...for our kids!!! |
| 04/16/2020 04:28 PM | Education Working Group | Carrie Cate | Re open NC |
| 04/16/2020 04:42 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Ame Ryan | It is not acceptable to be on such a lockdown for so long. It seems the powers that be was to exercise their power by keeping the people down. Are those in power not able to get a haircut? Clearly, the people in charge are interested in keeping the rest of us in compliance using fear tactics. The longer this remains restricted, the more businesses we will lose. It will take longer to recover. It seems as though the governor would like to keep us on lock down as a show of power. That is not a leader. Let businesses open. Let schools open. What is happening will only hurt kids, educationally, physically and emotionally. Let their be no penalty for those who choose to stay home but let the rest of us have our lives and our choices back. Maybe the Democrats should consider canceling the presidential election due to covid 19. I bet the thought of keeping Trump another 4 years will be enough to get the country open again |
| 04/16/2020 04:52 PM | Education Working Group | Marsha Young | Open NC up for economic recovery! |
| 04/16/2020 04:59 PM | Education Working Group | Ms. Katherine Dennett | I am hoping our state follows the advice of public health experts and opens back up safely. The availability of reliable testing is key in my mind. |
| 04/16/2020 05:10 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Camella Herrin | It's time to begin reopening our beloved state. With guidelines in place we need to go back to work and being together (even if somewhat apart:) |
| 04/16/2020 05:10 PM | Education Working Group | Iva Bosely | Open our state!!! |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| 04/16/2020 05:21 PM | Education Working Group | Tonya Welch | We need to begin reopening. I am in Healthcare Education. Many of our students have been shut out of clinical rotations and N.C. healthcare workouts are being laid off or hours cut due to low census. We can't get dental or vision appointments or appointments for routine checkups. The well being of the 98% of the population that will could catch this and be alright needs to be considered here. Hospitals and physician offices will close without cash flow. What happens then? |
| 04/16/2020 05:27 PM | Education Working Group | Back to school time Laura Farnan | Please consider safety above economics and don't have kids come back this school year just to be there for the last few weeks, get sick and bring COVID 19 home. |
| 04/16/2020 05:45 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Martha Dippold | Students need their education! The worst is over. We have a cure. Open NC! Open the schools! |
| 04/16/2020 06:30 PM | Education Working Group | Mr Art Close | Do NOT reopen NC until the science says it is a good time. The virus can kill a lot of people, the economy doesn't kill. |
| 04/16/2020 06:35 PM | Education Working Group | Ms Beth Morphis | Please allow small businesses back to work! We teach swimming lessons- a life saving skill! Our little ones need to get back in the water. Summer is around the corner! Swimming lessons save lives!!! |
| 04/16/2020 06:59 PM | Education Working Group | Tonya Lea | Please open North Carolina on or before May 1. This shut down is having devastating effects on our mental health, our economy and our well being in so many ways. Residents can still choose to self quarantine but life needs to go on. Please reopen our state! |
| 04/16/2020 07:19 PM | Education Working Group | Ms Monique McKithen | Gov Cooper keep up safe. Be a great steward of our health! Health over wealth...we want to bounce back strong with questions about this virus answered and proactive steps taken! |
| 04/16/2020 07:22 PM | Education Working Group | Jacqueline Lancaster | Reopen the state of NC! Don't make this a political issue! |
| 04/16/2020 07:59 PM | Education Working Group | nancy linker | I appreciate the leadership of our governor's trying to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 by limiting contact among our citizens. I support decisions that are recommended by medical experts. I strongly feel that we should be conservative in lifting restrictions and should do so only when it is seemed safe by physicians, not politicians! |
| | | | Voting by mail seems to be a practical solution to risky problem. It should not be a partisan decision. Intentionally crippling the Postal Service is a shallow, self serving, short sighted action that should not be allowed! |
| 04/16/2020 07:59 PM | Education Working Group | Inemployment and suicide Joseph Peacock | For every 1% increse in unemployment, if is estimated to result in 15,000 suicides per year. Unemployment just went from 3.4% to 13.5% (and climbing) Should we expect an extra 150,000 suicides this year? |
| 04/16/2020 08:19 PM | Education Working Group | Alice Colwell | Reopen North Carolina! We need to get back to work. I have been self quarantined for a month & done my part, now do yours! I am a citizen & a registered voter. |
| 04/16/2020 08:34 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Charity Reese | Please do mass testing to see if the virus has been here for a while. That would help to know if we should reopen. |
| 04/16/2020 08:34 PM | Education Working Group | James Izzell | Please open our State and our economy immediately! |
| 04/16/2020 08:53 PM | Education Working | Janaiah | As a NC resident, I'm voicing my concern and request that the schools be reopened due to |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|-------------------|--|
| | Group | | <p>the needs of the special needs community. My son (8 yrs old, severe autism) cannot receive his services through distance learning and the threat posed to his development, and others like him is greater than the current threat of COVID-19.</p> <p>For my son and many children like him, they cannot receive their PT, OT, and Speech services virtually as he requires 100% attention/prompts and hands-on support from his team. Due to the severity of his disability he, and many children like him, have a high propensity for developmental regressions without the continued support of education, therapies, and services. We are asking too much of our most vulnerable children if the schools do not reopen this school year.</p> <p>The North Carolina State Constitution states that “The people have a right to the privilege of education, and it is the duty of the State to guard and maintain that right.” (Art. I Sec. 15) The State has a duty to protect its citizens, but not at the expense of its other duties, such as providing an appropriate education for my son, which cannot be accomplished through a virtual classroom</p> |
| 04/16/2020 08:56 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Dora Dalmas | Do not open until we have testing widely available. Lives are worth more than any economic incentives |
| 04/16/2020 08:58 PM | Education Working Group | Candace Ham | Please reopen NC!! |
| 04/16/2020 09:03 PM | Education Working Group | Alyssa Sinyard | Reopen NC! |
| 04/16/2020 09:13 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Amanda Cooks | Please do not reopen the state until health experts and doctors have determined it to be safe. We know from past pandemics that ceasing social distancing too soon can lead to second and third waves of illness that can overwhelm our healthcare system. I personally will not be sending my children back to school, whether or not it reopens, until I am convinced that the most knowledgeable minds have determined it to be safe. |
| 04/16/2020 09:20 PM | Education Working Group | Miriam Naef | It's time to open up N C and get the people back to work. |
| 04/16/2020 09:27 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Jill Savoye | Open NC on May 1! Let all those who are healthy, willing and able to enter into the work system again. Open schools on May 18. Look at the numbers! |
| 04/16/2020 09:39 PM | Education Working Group | Janet Hayes | Reopen North Carolina by May first. The economic damage will be far more severe than the true health concerns in the long run. We the citizens of NC are fully aware of the 'dangers' of this covid virus, and are equally capable and aware of the necessary precautions. Our Constitutional rights have been violated by this narrative of "protection." It is past time to represent the people of this state and understand May 1, 2020 is a critical date to turn things around in our state! Moving forward, NC's educational systems and ALL businesses need to return to normal functioning for the sake of our families! |
| 04/16/2020 09:46 PM | Education Working Group | Dr. Dara Bloom | Please continue stay at home orders until we can flatten the curve and determine how to best move forward. I have a newborn at home, and ensuring his health and safety means erring on the side of caution. |
| 04/16/2020 09:53 PM | Education Working Group | | It's time to open NC! Our small businesses are going to suffer the longer we are shut down. Everyone just needs to use precautions! |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|---|
| 04/16/2020 09:55 PM | Education Working Group | Fref Cohn | Please cover the uninsured in our state by expanding Medicaid. |
| 04/16/2020 10:07 PM | Education Working Group | Roger Smith | Open all NC business now. |
| 04/16/2020 10:15 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Tina Simms | I really need NC to consider at least partially re-opening our state. I am a small business owner of a local dance studio. We have tried online classes but have lost MANY students. This is my 8th successful year and this is killing us. My business will not sustain much longer. Please please consider opening with precautions or guidelines to follow, that we would be more than happy to follow. Thank you. |
| 04/16/2020 10:15 PM | Education Working Group | Lisa Adams | Please allow those who are susceptible to CV self-quarantine and let everyone else get back to work!!! |
| 04/16/2020 10:21 PM | Education Working Group | Mr. Ryan Reed | REOPENNC. This is a joke. My wife is an RN in this state and they have hardly any patients at the 2nd largest hospital in NC. She has worked 3 days in 4 weeks. Small business and lives are being ruined. Stop keeping us down so that you can get more federal funds. |
| 04/16/2020 10:42 PM | Education Working Group | Mrs Margaret Wheeler | Please do not open. Extend |
| 04/16/2020 11:15 PM | Education Working Group | Frank Fields | Open NC immediately |
| 04/17/2020 12:00 AM | Education Working Group | School Calendar Concerns Jennifer Stump | I'm requesting you not change the public school calendar for August of 2020. Many people have already scheduled plans around the current calendar. People are desperately hoping to take their vacations this August. Please do not add more disappointment to people's lives and please don't further hurt the economy by making people cancel more plans. Both families and businesses are depending on you. If you need to add more school time, please consider doing it on the backend in June of 2021, when people have most likely not yet made plans. Also, that provides more time to see what actually happens with the COVID-19 situation. This time has been stressful for all of us. Please do not add to that by making people have to decide on missing school versus canceling a vacation and trying to get money back, etc. Thank you. |
| 04/17/2020 12:53 AM | Education Working Group | Mr. David Putnam | As you consider where to move forward from this point in NC, please consider these options. I live in Cleveland County. We have a relatively small number of cases, and the most we have added in one day is 5, although most days are zero to one. Of those we have had, most are recovering well, and we have had one death. The death was an elderly patient who had been confined to a skilled care facility and had been unresponsive for a long period of time due to Alzheimer's. I also own a second home at Oak Island, and of those infected there, only 4-5 active cases remain in the entire county. I realize that more urban areas are in a slightly different situation, and they may require additional mitigation strategies. We can still isolate and trace locally, both here and in Brunswick, and it seems to me that allowing a different set of circumstances (such as moving to Phase One immediately in such areas, by using county by county approach as suggested by Dr. Birx, and progressing through the subsequent "phases" more rapidly as we meet required criteria) would not only be beneficial to our local communities, but also both help jump-start our state's economy and produce some "test" cases from what might be considered |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|---|--|
| | | | <p>“experimental groups” that could provide insight as to how a larger urban population might be affected should the same measures be applied therein. Let’s allow the President’s phased approach to be our “floor” and consistently apply those measures and criteria/ benchmarks statewide. Employing this strategy may also necessitate funneling more of the antibody/serology and rapid testing resources to those areas early on, in part since, if they prove to be scarce, it would likely take less of them, buying more time to procure a sufficient quantity for urban populations as they prepare to move through the gateway into Phase One. Our state is so diverse that I believe it would not only be unwise but also unfair to apply the same measures uniformly to all. Truly, one size does not fit all here. Another consideration is reporting of cases. Until we know how many cases actually exist, we are basing decisions on incomplete data. For example, just because we have reported 5000+ cases statewide, we cannot assume we still have that many. Many have recovered, and sadly, some have perished. We should not mislead the public into thinking we still have that many active cases because that is how people are reading the data that is being released and what they are hearing from the media. That is fueling the panic I see among so many people. I am a minister, and our parents and elderly are terrified by the optics that people catch the virus and never recover. The count rises daily on the news, and that is to be expected, Even in a near flatline of cases, a few will still contract it. If we only report case counts, we will never show less than what we have today or tomorrow, People do not understand that, and it scares them. They need hope and encouragement, not fear and panic. Likewise, when outbreaks are contained in nursing homes and prisons, these should be considered and reported separately from the cases in a county and separate from the general populations’ progress and case count. These populations are self-contained and pose little risk to the general population, yet those counties with those outbreaks will look horrible in the data unless this is taken into account. I believe we are in a much better position than the media and our limited data show, and with warmer weather approaching, people will be outdoors more and, consequently, naturally more socially distant. My prayer is that the virus will be seasonal and begin to dissipate, and I believe we should encourage people to take advantage of the beauty of our state and the increased immunity that can come from increased vitamin D as the result of sunshine. After all, Sweden has done little of what we have done, and they are fine. Norway, that shut down everything, has had fewer cases than Sweden. I think if we will open up a little more, we will be surprised to find that it don’t be nearly as bad as we imagine. Thank you for your time and attention to my comments. Praying for us all to do the right things to help our people heal physically, emotionally, spiritually, and economically. We must find a way to do all these things,</p> |
| 04/17/2020 03:59 AM | Education Working Group | Small Business Owner Genelle Douglas | NC needs to be reopened for all business no later than May 1st. We have families to feed and a bills to pay. We can’t continue to live on NO income!! |
| 04/17/2020 04:30 AM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Mary Barefoot | Open economy and No more shut down |
| 04/17/2020 05:50 AM | Education Working Group | Reopen! Steven Messer | Open the state! |
| 04/17/2020 05:52 AM | Education Working Group | Mr. Richard Rierson | We as a family of teachers are NOT in support of this continued shut down, when statistics have indicated minimal risk for our state. Remember, elections do have consequences. So far you have NOT changed our opinion of who we will vote for. Show |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|--|
| | | | some genuine honesty & courage. Do the right thing if we meet the gate opening criteria, begin to reopen N.C. |
| 04/17/2020 06:38 AM | Education Working Group | Rev Rick Calloway | It is time to reopen our economy. The shutdown is not constitutional. |
| 04/17/2020 07:35 AM | Education Working Group | Maureen Rupert | Open up all educational facilities....students are suffering! |
| 04/17/2020 07:51 AM | Education Working Group | Ms Leslie Hagarty | stop trying to kill us for your stocks. |
| 04/17/2020 07:58 AM | Education Working Group | Mr Powell marshall | Please keep this state at home until the healthcare industry is sure we are safe without creating a more horrible phase 2 of this pandemic |
| 04/17/2020 08:22 AM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Amanda Brown | We need to reopen NC! We need to get back to a somewhat normal life again. Small businesses are hurting, our economy is hurting. We need to open up and start building up an immunity to this virus. REOPEN NC! |
| 04/17/2020 08:44 AM | Education Working Group | Mr. Jeff Jodges | Stay at home is safer than exposing students to the risks associated with this illness |
| 04/17/2020 08:46 AM | Education Working Group | Ms Lydia Hallum | Money will begin to flow, but lives cannot be replaced. We need order. The rich can stay home the poor have been working throughout. We need vote by mail for the state. Voting is to important to be put at risk |
| 04/17/2020 08:58 AM | Education Working Group | Gary Kreiser | I would encourage the state to not modify school calendars for the start of 2020-2021 school year. If a decision is made to allow earlier starts, this decision needs to be finalized and communicated by May 30, 2020 to allow for cancellations and rebooking of previously paid summer commitments. State guidance also needs to be provided for high school credits earned by middle school students to ensure that middle school students who successfully complete/earn a P grade for high school course work in middle school earn that credit towards high school graduation. |
| 04/17/2020 10:01 AM | Education Working Group | Miss Sarah Norman | As a counselor I see the mental health of our nation crashing. As an American I see small business owners who are now saying they are going to be unable to open back up due to lost funds. I feel like If we opened now slowly - allowing stores, restaurants, movie theaters, etc to reopen with a cape size how how and where we can sit. We can get to some kind of normal. This virus isn't scary to me - it's what I'm hearing from friends and seeing from My students that's scary. We were not made to live this way, our constitution doesn't allow this. Please consider reopening NC in small increments as soon as possible. |
| 04/17/2020 10:31 AM | Education Working Group | Mrs. Cama Merritt | I urge you to take advantage of federal funds that are available to support education, especially during this crisis. Now more than ever we need to address the discrepancies in our education systems. In the more affluent areas public education thrives. In deprived areas, where students need a lift up, funds are often less than needed for a vigorous educational system. |
| 04/17/2020 10:57 AM | Education Working Group | Ms. Jennie Eblen | Over a million people in North Carolina are facing a pandemic with no health insurance. The NC General Assembly has the power to cut the number of uninsured in half immediately, using federal funding. Expanding Medicaid now will bolster our health systems and families against this pandemic, and create a path towards economic recovery when this crisis is over. EXPAND MEDICAID NOW! |

| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments |
|---------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------|---|
| 04/17/2020 11:33 AM | Education Working Group | Ramona Williams | I feel that it is not safe enough to open the county back up at the end of the month. I'm praying for that President we have. |
| 04/17/2020 11:44 AM | Education Working Group | Ms. Joy Jones | Governor Cooper, I am begging you to reopen our economy. Not only are our small businesses suffering, but our children are suffering greatly. Our senior class has been impacted in ways that are unimaginable. It is not fair for this group of students who have worked their entire life to have all of it be suddenly ripped from them with no ceremonies. I am urging you to reconsider opening our economy and all functions. Our statistics do not support being closed any longer. We need to get back to a vital life function as citizens of this state. Think about what you are taking away from the citizens of this state. They will never be able to get this back. Please re-open and allow graduations, gatherings, to go on. Our students have worked for this. It will be a devastation if you do not open our state on April 30. Please think of the class of 2020. |
| 04/17/2020 12:07 PM | Education Working Group | Mr Michael Martine | Please consider flexible options to provide for families with immunity compromised members to have their school aged students continue their education at a distance. Social distancing at schools is not possible. The risk for a student family member infecting another family member is extremely high from what we know today. Providing ongoing distance education services will help balance the educational needs of students and medical infection risk exposure for their families. |
| 04/17/2020 12:55 PM | Education Working Group | Ms. Lisa Mayhew | I am concerned that if we reopen public spaces without any testing or tracing that we will be back in the same situation we were in in March. Please consider our citizens that are immune compromised or elderly. I am against opening without testing in place. |
| 04/17/2020 02:10 PM | Education Working Group | Ms. Margie Holmes Wilder | It is too soon to open the economy up due to too many uncertainties and vulnerable citizens. Life matters more than dollars. What good is dollars with increased threats of loss of life. |