

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/20/2020 03:44 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Richard Rosen	<p>How does COVID – 19 change the need to close the insurance coverage gap? Before COVID – 19 there were compelling reasons for NC to join 37 other states and close our coverage gap and expand Medicaid. 400,000 people would gain health insurance. In states that expanded Medicaid, many measures, including greater access to care, improved control of chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension, and reduced infant mortality have been reported, compared to states that didn't expand. Insurance premiums average 11% less in states that have expanded Medicaid, as there is less cost shifting when there are fewer uninsured. George Washington University, in a study sponsored by Cone Health Foundation and Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust showed improved health outcomes and creation of 37,000 jobs over the next 3 years if NC expanded Medicaid. The COVID – 19 pandemic is adding stress to both health and economic aspects of life in North Carolina. We are seeing huge increases of new unemployment claims and a daily uptick in positive test results. The shutting down of elective procedures and surgeries will deprive hospitals of a dependable source of income. The edict that tests for COVID 19 are free for patients translates to greater unreimbursed expense for providers. Donning protective equipment takes time, and if there are many patients in isolation, more caregiver hours will be necessary. Overcoming supply shortages in protective personnel equipment and ventilators will be costly. Stress from families cooped up at home is manifested by increase calls to law enforcement for domestic violence and psychological agencies for anxiety, and Medicaid Expansion would provide needed mental health care. Many North Carolina hospitals, particularly in rural areas, were in a precarious financial way before COVID – 19, and the pandemic increases their vulnerability. There is speculation that the federal share of expanding Medicaid, currently 90%, might climb to 100% for the next 3 years. Whether the state share is 0 or 10%, it is now imperative that North Carolina stop sending our tax dollars to Washington, from whence it gets distributed to 37 other states. COVID - 19 makes an important step a health and economic emergency.</p>
04/20/2020 08:34 PM	Education Working Group	Lisa Wilhoit	Reopen NC now
04/21/2020 06:47 AM	Education Working Group	James Reynolds	Vote by mail should be allowed for all NC residents.
04/21/2020 02:24 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Amee Stewart	Where are the funds going that generally go towards feeding children free breakfasts and lunches? This is not happening currently during the Stay At Home order. Whomever is in charge....these kids are falling through the cracks. HELP THEM!!! The food pantries and volunteers are not set up to handle such overflow of hunger and numbers of people needing food.