

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/23/2020 03:01 PM	Education Working Group	Ouida Watson	I would like to see the budget for public schools follow the guidance of the Leandro case and restore funding to teacher assistants and fully fund the support positions of Guidance Counselors, Social Workers, and School Nurses. The need has existed but not been funded due expenditures of funds for tax cuts and write offs for business. I would like to see an end to subsidized funding for parochial and other private schools called "Opportunity Scholarships." Additionally I would like to see the management of Charter Schools be returned to the school district where the school is located. Options for locally developed "charters" would ensure that schools are run by educators and school business leaders who's focus in on the student rather than income. All students deserve to have equitable access to a free public education no matter where they live. As a former DPI consultant, I saw first hand the deficiencies in districts where local revenue is the basis for educational funding. I moved to NC in 2004 to work at DPI and enjoyed the opportunity to work in a progressive student centered agency. That does not exist at the present time.
04/23/2020 06:18 PM	Education Working Group	The Refinery Salon Beverly Reddinger	Reopen NC, you are starving our family.... 4 weeks and \$0.....are you going without money? Stay home and starve should be our government's motto!!!!
04/23/2020 06:35 PM	Education Working Group	President Janice Thompson	Tender Mercies Pet Organization relies on people traveling because we need boarding income to save rescues. Our kennel will be closed and thousands of dogs will die without us. Open NC now.
04/23/2020 06:43 PM	Education Working Group	Stay at home extension! Ronald Belton	The NC State Legislators need to immediately vote to override Gov Roy Cooper's extension to May 8. This is an assault on our basic civil liberties. Not to mention the businesses in my community that are dying. Vote to reopen NC now!
04/23/2020 08:13 PM	Education Working Group	Linda Brown	I am a child care worker. I continue to work Monday - Friday. We are doing everything and more to keep the children in our care and ourselves safe. Most People in NC are smart enough and care enough to follow the steps to protect each other. I believe a lot of this is political if it wasn't our churches would not be getting attacked for having met tings in their parking lots. The sell of Alcohol, and lottery tickets are not a necessity or essential for life. We can open the state back up and follow proper protocol while getting our economy back and stop damaging our economy.
04/23/2020 08:51 PM	Education Working Group	Operator/ Childcare Tina Locklear	Childcare operator.... As a first line worker/ childcare provider. I ask that you consider the childcare providers income. I work around the clock hrs taking care of our children. I ask that we also be recognized... I made alittle more than 20 thousand last yr. another thing I would like to address notice that the centers get paid more than the CCH. Why is that? I'm constantly on my feet. As well as my co-workers. Also Having less ratio I'm able to work with my children more 1 on 1. I'm just curious
04/23/2020 09:02 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Diane Scott	I cannot believe they you are not allowing healthy people to go hungry and lose their livelihood due to your unconstitutional, draconian measures of keeping our economy shut down. REOPEN NC
04/23/2020 11:42 PM	Education Working Group	Heidi Bell	Please continue to have schools closed, however I would suggest having summer break start early, at least for students. Unfortunately I have seen no plan that fully address equity in virtual and remote learning. The only way to make it more equitable is to have all students begin summer break as soon as possible. I'm a public school teacher in Durham and I know many families are unable to access or use materials. There are families that

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			are stressed and overwhelmed. This would be a major relief to these families and students that will undoubtedly get further behind versus their peers that have access to all learning materials.
04/24/2020 01:15 AM	Education Working Group	Mr. Gregg Sinderson	Please override Gov Cooper's veto of bill for teacher and principal pay raises for 19-20 school year. Or use one time money for 19-20 teacher pay raises
04/24/2020 01:21 AM	Education Working Group	Mr. Gregg Sinderson	Where did all the money come from for \$\$\$ for technology, summer "jumpstart", etc if it wasn't a priority before the pandemic. \$10 M for NCVPS???? Sometime the best thing is to do nothing!
04/24/2020 07:28 AM	Education Working Group	Child care teacher Antionette Richards	I am a child care worker and I do not have health insurance. During all of this my center has been open. We don't have mask to protect outselve from those covid 19. Pkus social distance can't not be practice. We are taking care if kids with cough, run big nose everyday putting ourselves in danger. We need pay for this and money in place for child care worker to be able to afford health insurance.
04/24/2020 07:35 AM	Education Working Group	Do NOT REOPEN NC Nitya Fiorentino	Please do not reopen NC. A resurgence of Covid would cost more lives and make the economic impact greater.
04/24/2020 07:58 AM	Education Working Group		I am very concerned about the possibility of having calendar flexibility and starting schools as early as August 17th. I am opposed to this idea for several reasons: 1. Due to the stay-at-home order and Governor's very restrictive phases--it could be as late as July or even August before travel is allowed. After all the stress, our kids need time to go and travel without our state. Moving school up earlier would take that away after so much has already been taken away. 2. Our mountains and coastal areas need the additional time to get some vacationers after being shut down for months. 3. Have you consider the extra costs?? Teachers may be typically back by then for workdays BUT what about ALL the hourly employees? Adding days of employment to contracts would be a substantial cost in a time when budgets are being slashed. Where would all that money come from? Have you approved extra support to cover all that costs? I ask that you do NOT approve calendar flexibility and keep the current timeframe to open the schools the same.
04/24/2020 08:34 AM	Education Working Group	Trevia Woods	As an educator, thank you for closing the schools and allowing us the flexibility to keep meeting the needs of our students online. I will not feel comfortable going back to school until the Fall. The stress of cleaning, worrying and being responsible for young children in the classroom was very stressful as flu season was hitting hard in Feb then Covid came. Thank you for all you do.
04/24/2020 09:23 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Rachel Ogonowski	North Carolina, teachers, parents, and students are not prepared, or trained, nor have the infrastructure in place needed for equitable and meaningful home learning. Safety of citizens is paramount to any economic, educational, or political needs. Education can take a backseat to fundamental priorities: safety, food, shelter.
04/24/2020 09:23 AM	Education Working Group	Laura B	I support the continued closure of non essential businesses. Following the recommendation of science experts is so important. Let's keep NC closed to keep everyone safe!

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04/24/2020 10:22 AM	Education Working Group	Budget Blinds of North Wi MACK MOORE	ReOpen NC now
04/24/2020 11:03 AM	Education Working Group	Mr E J	No, it's time for you to give us comments.
04/24/2020 12:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jamie Gartman	This shut down is destroying the working poor and middle class. Tax revenues are in dire straights and this will have a very negative impact on education, social services, pensions and infra-structure. This authoritarian executive order is based on the whims of a Governor who is owned by the far left and DC elitist. It has nothing to do with science. Disgusting. Reopen now ! We will not be silenced.
04/24/2020 02:04 PM	Health Care Working Group	Freedom Education Keith Deltano	Only those with pre existing conditions and the very elderly die of COVID. Please let the rest of us out. Quarantine those at risk - not the rest of us.
04/24/2020 02:58 PM	Education Working Group	Diane Scott	You need to lift these draconian measures. All jobs are essential. North Carolinians are suffering
04/24/2020 02:58 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Reopen North Carolina April Sparling	Please we need to re open our state of North Carolina. We cannot continue to live without jobs nor the proper education for our children. The economy is going to crash. This cannot last much longer. Not sure what the Gov is thinking. It needs to stop! We are We the people! The control has to stop. Thanks
04/24/2020 03:02 PM	Education Working Group	The Wrong Side of History Karen Arnold	Freedom comes with risk. There is no way to separate the two. Unfortunately, some people in our society are shortsighted or ignorant enough to think that taking away personal liberty is a reasonable price to ensure safety. I am heartbroken at what this mass hysteria has done to my country. I feel as if the government has fallen to a quiet coup. Please do anything you can to restore our freedom.
04/24/2020 03:13 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Liza Coutu	People need to be educated on how to be as safe as possible, how to support their immune systems to be as healthy as possible, and then they need to be able to make individual decisions about how to proceed. The current restrictions are overreaching and are often not based in common sense. We currently have treatments available to reduce the number of those needing to be hospitalized. The restrictions do not seem to be about avoiding overwhelming the medical system, however, since there are hospitals in our state which are furloughing employees for lack of work available. I support allowing people to reopen their businesses with safety guidelines. Start immediately with the counties which have been least hit, especially in those areas where even hospitals are suffering for lack of business. I see more harm coming from this shutdown than from COVID-19.
04/24/2020 03:17 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Christa Hutzler	REOPEN NC! Overturn Cooper's illegal and unconstitutional orders!
04/24/2020 03:28 PM	Education Working Group	Ashley King	<p>I was reading some posts for and against reopening the country. One was talking about being selfish and it got me to thinking.</p> <p>There are those wanting to reopen yet they're being classified as selfish. There are those healthy people who rely on all kinds of people to supply them while they sit safe at home for the foreseeable future. Isn't that being selfish too?</p> <p>You expect your garbage to be picked up, you expect the grocery store to be open so you</p>

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			<p>can get milk, you expect truck drivers to supply the stores, you expect farmers, meatpackers, fruit and vegetable pickers all to keep food in that grocery store. You expect Amazon to still ship all the things you're ordering while you sit at home shopping. You expect the delivery driver to leave it on your doorstep. You expect your phone to work, your power to stay on, and your mail to show up rain, sleet, or shine. And most important, you expect the doctors and nurses to be there if you need them although many of them across the country have been furloughed because their units and services have been shut down while the entire system focuses only on COVID19.</p> <p>The whole premise of shelter in place is based on the arrogant idea that others must risk their health so you can protect yours. There is nothing virtuous about ignoring the largely invisible army required to allow people to shelter in place.</p> <p>I know there are some of you may be screaming mad about what I just said but stop and really think about what is allowing you to stay safe in your home.</p> <p>I truly believe that with some common sense on my part, I could easily go back to life as it was. I want to go to restaurants, I want to shop at the little store just up the road. And yes, I could catch COVID-19. I could also catch the flu or a cold. I could get run over by a bus. I could get struck by lightning. We take risks everyday. If you choose to stay home, that is absolutely your choice. And please don't start screaming at me about how I'll just spread it. Why are you worried? You won't get it because you're staying in your home. Are you going to shelter in place every time a new strand of the flu happens?</p> <p>The entire purpose of the shelter-in-place idea was to let the healthcare system to prepare and to flatten the curve. It was not to eradicate the virus (impossible).</p> <p>Our economy can't withstand much more of this. If our economy collapses, so will the rest of the world's. If that happens, you will see the rise of tyrants.</p> <p>I absolutely don't want people to die...from COVID or anything else. I want people to live.</p> <p>But sheltering in place is not living.</p>
04/24/2020 07:18 PM	Education Working Group	Teacher Catherine Marsh	Yes it would be nice to have health insurance. The money I make is not covering my expenses with my kids at home from school or when they are at school
04/24/2020 08:05 PM	Education Working Group	John Memoli	had a thought today, while cleaning. Our leaders aren't just overruling the Bill of Rights, the Constitution, or the Founding Fathers. They're deeming to overrule he who gave us those God given rights.
04/25/2020 10:08 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Barbara Wallace	We need to shelter in home until the phases the Governor' COVID team established. I'm in a 2000 person school. Until the curve is flattened, we should not return to school or non-essential businesses. Honestly, law enforcers needs to enforce shelter in home. Here in my County, some businesses are not observing social distancing.
04/25/2020 10:41 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Catherine Hampson	I am a NC public school teacher. I am very concerned by the idea that some people keep putting forward that schools should reopen early/first because children are 'not affected' by Coronavirus. While school age children may tend to be asymptomatic, this broad

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04/25/2020 04:57 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Laura Haldane	<p>More emphasis needs to be given to strengthen our immune systems—what we used to call keeping your resistance up. The overwhelming majority of people who have died from COVID-19 have weakened immune systems. Everyone can benefit from getting plenty of sunshine and fresh air, eating a healthful diet, and getting adequate sleep. Research has demonstrated that being outdoors enhances our immunity. Sunshine, fresh air, heat and humidity can break down viruses in minutes, making outdoor environments generally safer than indoor ones. Closing parks is counterproductive. Fear and uncertainty create and feed stress. Stress and depression inhibit our immune systems. Guidance for coping with stress, depression, and other mental health issues; as well putting greater emphasis on the need to strengthen immune systems would probably save more lives than keeping healthy young people locked up in their homes.</p>
04/25/2020 05:26 PM	Education Working Group	Mr E J	<p>How about have the governor open the state instead of taking a trip to tampa?</p>
04/26/2020 01:27 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Joshua Garloch	<p>Hello,</p> <p>To introduce myself, my name is Josh Garloch. I have been a resident of NorthCarolina most of my life and currently reside in Raleigh. I grew up in Wilson and attending East Carolina University for my bachelor's and Master's in Public Health. I currently work at Syneos Health in Morrisville where I work within Project Management in Clinical Research.I'm writing you today, not to advocate for a complete reopening of the state, but that our leaders "do better". We cannot afford to "shelter in place" for much longer. Not only will the economic factors be an insurmountable deficit for our state to overcome, but the long term effects to mental health, pre-existing health conditions (fear of seeking care), education and livelihoods may not repairable.In NC, we've reached 299 deaths, but what if I you were also told ~50% of those deaths were in nursing/residential living facilities? You would think more attention, detail, resources and policy would be applied to this subset of the population.</p> <p>Of the 299 deaths, only 45 have been under the age of 65 meaning a whopping 85% of deaths have been for those over 65. This information should also be detailed in these news briefings given by our state leaders, Governor Roy Cooper and Dr. Mandy Cohen. NC</p>

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			<p>DHHS has not made pre-existing health conditions available to the public but in NY, 94% of deaths had a pre-existing condition, with over half presenting with hypertension. Hypertension is a disease that typically does not present by itself but rather presents with another condition, e.g. obesity, diabetes. Median age of deaths in NY is 63, which is in line with our numbers. We have a very clear, defined patient population that is being treated for all intents in purposes the same as John Q. public. These should be the focus of care, treatment and policy. There is no guarantee of treatment vaccine on the horizon. We are inevitably delaying a re-opening of the state while creating more damage in the long term, then good in the short term. This is not only wrong but irresponsible on innumerable levels. Our state is estimated to lose 25-40 billion dollars in GDP over the course of our stay at home order, a deficit I worry we will never climb back from. Towns and business who will never be made whole again to no fault of their own. This shelter in place order is not a sustainable practice and was never meant to act as one. The data supports a better set of policies and a more expedited re-opening of the state, even on a phased approach.</p> <p>I am humbly asking for your assistance for the state to consider not black and white numbers, but the longer terms societal factors as well as the populations most at risk against the greater good of the public. Over 700k North Carolinians are out of a job by no fault of their own. I believe this issue has unnecessarily become a political issue that we see playing out before us with each side surrounding themselves with experts who align themselves with those who think the same as opposed to a holistic approach, which also does the entire state a disservice and should be addressed immediately with the Governors office/team being held responsible to report to a higher committee. I also believe that our elected officials are doing their constituents on both sides a disservice by not engaging directly. We do not have to choose between public health and economic considerations, the two must be factored equally as they are co-dependent on each other.</p> <p>I am very willing and open to engage in further discussion/dialogue should the opportunity be there.</p> <p>For city, state and country, Joshua R. Garloch 5408 Pine Top Circle Raleigh, NC 27612 Garlochj08@gmail.com 252.373.1255</p>
04/26/2020 10:16 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Peter Franklin	This shut down is unconstitutional and is an economic disaster. Further, it is complete unwarranted!
04/27/2020 10:18 AM	Education Working Group	Debbie Leonard	Please have school end Memorial day, and start back August 3. Relieve the stress of online learning, parents are going to be going back to work, and have the kids review for a month before moving on to the grade material.
04/27/2020 11:49 AM	Education Working Group	Susan B. and Robert D. McClanahan	<p>Dear Members of the NC General Assembly,</p> <p>1. Please support Governor Cooper's slow and sensible reopening plan that has been devised with the help of dedicated DHHS health care professionals in North Carolina.</p>

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			<p>2. Please make it possible for North Carolinians to vote by mail in the November 2020 election so that our people do not have to choose between voting and staying well.</p> <p>We know that your public comment site has been flooded with comments from people affiliated with ReOpenNC. While we are sorry that businesses in North Carolina are suffering, and we sympathize with their plight, we have to tell you that they do not represent us and the 8,985 North Carolina families who have loved ones who are sick with COVID-19.</p> <p>We have a loved one who has COVID-19, and we are convinced that if ReOpen protestors knew the realities of this disease, they would NEVER be out demonstrating for a speedy reopening of NC. This group was begun on Facebook by paid organizers who were funded by a group of conservative billionaires who have been affiliated with the Koch Brothers and big corporations since the 1970's. [1]. ReOpen NC obviously has deep pocket support, because they were able to hire lawyers to threaten the Cooper administration. [2]. (See the quotes below for specifics.)</p> <p>Our loved one was a very healthy 30-something who has struggled to recover from COVID-19 for more than forty days now. People with COVID-19 often have relapses. While our loved one is doing better, we know from personal experience that NONE of the ReOpen NC people would want to have any of their loved ones sick with the coronavirus.</p> <p>Because COVID-19 is a brand new disease, we do not yet know how long impacted people will be sick with it. One Washington Post article suggests that even "Young and middle-aged people, barely sick with covid-19, are dying from strokes: Doctors sound alarm about patients in their 30s and 40s left debilitated or dead. Some didn't even know they were infected." [3]. With so much uncertainty, NC needs to err on the side of caution when reopening NC.</p> <p>Please make it possible for North Carolinians to vote by mail in the November 2020 election so that our people do not have to choose between voting and staying well.</p> <p>After their April 7th election fiasco, Milwaukee has had at least seven people come down with the coronavirus after people had to stand in line for hours to vote. [4].</p> <p>Thank you for any help that you can provide!</p> <p>[1]. "The outside effort from conservative groups is expected to be led by Stephen Moore, a conservative at the Heritage Foundation who is close with White House economic officials; Jenny Beth Martin, co-founder of the Tea Party Patriots; Adam Brandon, president of FreedomWorks, a conservative advocacy organization; and Lisa Nelson, chief executive of the American Legislative Exchange Council, a conservative organization with ties to the Koch brothers, according to the three people, who were granted anonymity to reveal details of an effort that had not been publicly revealed."</p>

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			<p>Quoted from: White House aides, outside groups launch effort to reopen economy, but Mnuchin says decisions poses risks: Conservative groups mobilize to push Trump to reopen economy amid pandemic. White House reviews list of 100 business executives who could advise Trump on decision, which president says he will make soon, by Jeff Stein and Robert Costa, The Washington Post, posted April 13, 2020.</p> <p>[2]. "If your offices do not provide reasonable assurance and objective standards that preserve my clients' constitutional rights," Biller wrote, "we will have no choice but to seek emergency legal relief in advance of Tuesday's planned protest."</p> <p>Quoted from: 'Shutdown is tyranny'. Approximately 1000 march to demand Cooper reopen NC economy, by Joe Fisher and Cullen Browder, WRAL, Raleigh, NC, posted April 21, 2020; updated April 22. https://www.wral.com/coronavirus/shutdown-is-tyranny-approximately-1000-march-to-demand-cooper-reopen-nc-economy/19064821/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=d3a8e8cc-61e9-485b-9a70-4551a70bcf41</p> <p>[3]. "Young and middle-aged people, barely sick with covid-19, are dying from strokes: Doctors sound alarm about patients in their 30s and 40s left debilitated or dead. Some didn't even know they were infected." by Ariana Eunjung Cha, The Washington Post, posted April 25, 2020. https://www.washingtonpost.com/health/2020/04/24/strokes-coronavirus-young-patients/?utm_campaign=wp_post_most&utm_medium=email&utm_source=newsletter&wpisrc=nl_most)</p> <p>[4]. At least 7 new coronavirus cases appear to be related to Wisconsin's election, Milwaukee health commissioner says, by Alison Dirr, The Milwaukee Journal Sentinel, Wisconsin, posted April 21, 2020. https://www.jsonline.com/story/news/local/milwaukee/2020/04/20/coronavirus-milwaukee-7-new-cases-may-tied-april-7-election/5168669002/</p>
04/27/2020 02:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Deborah Kennedy	<p>I have been very happy with and proud of Gov. Cooper's response to Covid-19. He has taken great care of the citizens of our state, even when the lieutenant governor was undermining those very steps. I was recently talking with a friend who moved from NC back to the west, she is in NV. I said I was happy with what the governor was doing so far. She said she knew he would be a fantastic governor, that's why she voted for him.</p> <p>What is concerning me at this point is the possibility of beginning opening on May 8. We have fairly low numbers, it would be fantastic to keep it that way.</p> <p>Here is a snapshot of what I see out in the public. I live on the border of Randolph and Guilford county, and the few times I have gone out I am not seeing nearly enough people wearing masks or face coverings. Social distancing is somewhat observed, but not as it should be. When in a grocery store I have had several experiences where I absolutely could not get away from people who were not observing the social distancing. I constantly dodge germ laden spit, dirty diapers, tissue, used masks and gloves, and half eaten food throughout parking lots.</p>

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			<p>Neighborhood children are playing together. None of the women who are walking their strollers are wearing masks. I am hearing many folks dismiss this virus. In conversation I notice that many resist everything related to the restrictions, and even the intensity of this virus. I feel these people outnumber those observing cautious behaviors, and are putting all others at risk. I see parents with children out in stores with no face coverings. I don't know what is happening with compliance in the Triangle area, but this is rampant in less sophisticated cities like High Point, and counties like Randolph. If you loosen the restrictions, even a bit, they will take a mile. I feel asking the people to cover their face for others rather than for themselves is not enough motivation for these people, they are the ones more concerned about themselves. The message should be to do it to protect themselves so maybe they would comply.</p> <p>I certainly understand the the importance of NASCAR, I went to school with Kyle Petty, but If NASCAR to moves forward, even without spectators this will send another signal that it is okay to begin acting like this is not happening. There will be large gatherings in homes to view the race. A neighbor of mine had people over partying in their backyard yesterday.</p> <p>I am part of a social Meetup group for middle aged and older people. Some of this group had a big party just a few days before the stay-at-home order was issued. The pictures posted on the event page shows them acting as usual, with arms all around each other, one lady laying across several people on the sofa, pics with their heads together. They all brought food for a potluck, These are educated professionals who should have known better.</p> <p>All this to say, we have done this well with a great amount of people not following ALL of the guidelines, please don't make a mistake and undo the good work that has been done so far. You all are our guardians. I am quite frightened with what our surrounding southern states are doing, and don't want to be a part of that, or encourage their entry into our state. The president frightens me daily, I count on you to shepherd us safely, you are who we depend on. I understand the protesters they need to make a living, but not at the expense of the lives of others or themselves. Those lives are worth your political career either. Maybe now is the time to create virtual jobs they can do from home to help with the situation we're in right now. A modern version of the WPA, jobs creation. Processing unemployment requests, the Small Business loans, SNAP benefits, etc. many other things. So many companies are behind their online orders right now. Why not enlist the SBA in helping small retail businesses to go online and/or promote it, if their product is a good fit? NC could lead in this idea. We are a state of education and innovation.</p> <p>The experts are right. Please don't begin this opening too soon. I feel May 8 is too soon.</p> <p>I deeply appreciate your time and service. Debbie Kennedy</p>