

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/24/2020 04:12 PM	Health Care Working Group	Shelter In Place Now Mary Clark	Public leaders: The only thing that matters right now is the speed of your response. Please heed the request of the NC Healthcare Association to issue a shelter in place order for the state of North Carolina. Here is a website with an interactive graph that clearly illustrates the dire cost of delaying: https://covidactnow.org/state/NC
03/24/2020 04:12 PM	Health Care Working Group	Shelter In Place Now Mary Clark	Public leaders: The only thing that matters right now is the speed of your response. Please heed the request of the NC Healthcare Association to issue a shelter in place order for the state of North Carolina. Here is a website with an interactive graph that clearly illustrates the dire cost of delaying: https://covidactnow.org/state/NC
03/24/2020 04:34 PM	Economic Support Working Group	David Heinen	<p>The North Carolina Center for Nonprofits has been seeking input from nonprofits about the ways that the COVID-19 pandemic is affecting their organizations and the communities they serve. Here are six policy solutions that would be immensely helpful to the nonprofit sector. The Center will make additional suggestions for policy solutions as we continue to learn more about the hardships nonprofits are facing during the pandemic.</p> <p>State grants and contracts. The state is a critical partner to many nonprofit service providers. Significant disruptions in state grants and contracts could permanently shut down organizations providing health services, child care, food assistance, senior care, and many other essential services in our state. Nonprofits may have difficulty fulfilling their deliverables on state grants and contracts due to the necessary public health response to this emergency and the impact it is will have on all parts of the economy.</p> <p>Policy solutions: The General Assembly should pass legislation requiring that, if a nonprofit cannot fulfill its deliverable on a state contract due to circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic, then the contract will be based on intended deliverables without penalty for inability to meet deliverables. In addition, we encourage the NC Office of State Management and Budget to consider following the lead of the federal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in temporarily loosening grant and contract reporting, application, and renewal requirements.</p> <p>Unemployment insurance. Businesses and nonprofits throughout North Carolina are making (and will continue to make) difficult decisions in light of the economic challenges that are resulting from the public health response to the pandemic. For more details about nonprofit-specific issues related to unemployment insurance (UI), see this blog post.</p> <p>Policy solution: To the extent that the General Assembly makes temporary changes to unemployment insurance (UI) benefits, it is important to consider that nonprofits have the option of self-insuring rather and reimbursing the state for UI claims rather than paying SUTA based on experience rating. The Center would certainly support legislative efforts to hold harmless businesses and nonprofits for UI claims resulting from this pandemic by not charging temporary benefits to their experience rating. However, it would be essential</p>

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			<p>for any such legislation to have a parallel provision ensuring that nonprofits that elect to reimburse are also held harmless. The current version of stimulus legislation in Congress would provide federal funding for half of the UI claims of the reimbursing nonprofits. Unless the state can pick up the other half of the cost of these UI claims, nonprofits that have elected to self-insure for UI – including healthcare providers, food banks, housing providers, and senior care facilities – may have to close their doors or significantly reduce services at a time when access to healthcare, food, housing, and other basic needs are more essential than ever.</p> <p>Policy solution: Two types of charitable nonprofits are exempt from UI laws: (1) churches and other religious nonprofits; and (2) small nonprofits with fewer than four employees. That means that employees working for these types of nonprofits are ineligible for UI benefits if they lose their jobs because of COVID-19. These workers should have access to Disaster Unemployment Assistance if President Trump declares as major disaster in North Carolina, as Governor Cooper has requested. However, if there is no major disaster declaration, it would be extremely helpful for the General Assembly to provide some type of temporary UI benefits for these workers at churches, faith-based organizations, and small nonprofits.</p> <p>Extending small business assistance to nonprofits. Like many small businesses, nonprofits are suffering significant financial losses as a result of the necessary public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Policymakers are rightly seeking to help mitigate the financial harm to small businesses. However, any assistance to employers through a corporate or income tax mechanism will likely leave out nonprofit employers.</p> <p>Policy solution: Any employer benefit should be available to nonprofit employers, either by making the tax mechanism relate to taxes that nonprofits pay (such as payroll taxes or unrelated business income taxes) or by using a grant mechanism for nonprofits.</p> <p>Support for charitable giving. Nonprofits have seen a decline in private giving the past two year, and widespread closures and cancellations of public events have eliminated important sources of earned income revenue (tickets for performances, registration for educational conferences, etc.) for the foreseeable future.</p> <p>Policy solution: If the General Assembly is considering any tax changes to respond to the pandemic, it would be extremely helpful to consider adding a targeted, temporary giving incentive (whether a credit or a deduction) that would be available to all North Carolinians to encourage them to support the work of charitable organizations in their community that are responding to, or suffering from, the COVID-19 pandemic. It is our understanding that the current version of the stimulus bill being considered by Congress includes a limited non-itemizer tax deduction for charitable contributions (capped at \$300 per year and not applicable retroactively on 2019 taxes). Many in Congress (from both parties) are trying to amend the bill to strengthen this temporary universal charitable deduction provision. If these efforts are unsuccessful, it will be important for the General Assembly to help encourage private giving by including a more meaningful state tax deduction or credit for charitable contributions.</p>

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			<p>Extension of charitable solicitation filing deadlines. Most charitable nonprofits are required by state law to have charitable solicitation licenses, which are issued annually by the NC Secretary of State. Many of these nonprofits will need to file for renewal of their licenses on May 15 and will need an extension due to workplace disruptions stemming from COVID-19 and social distancing practices.</p> <p>Policy solution: Currently, state law (NCGS § 131F-5(d) only grants the Secretary of State the authority to grant filing extensions of up to 60 days. It would be extremely helpful for the General Assembly either: (1) to provide for automatic six-month extension of these filing deadlines; or (2) to expand the Secretary of State's authority to allow it to grant extension of up to six months.</p> <p>In most cases, nonprofits now have fewer resources to meet greater needs, since most organizations are suffering financial loss, significant reduction in the availability of in-person volunteers, and the reduction in staff capacity as nonprofit employees are sick, at home with children who are unexpectedly out of school, or having to work remotely to avoid in-office interactions.</p> <p>Policy solution: It is essential that state government leaders consult with nonprofits as the state of North Carolina continues to proactively respond to this crisis. If the General Assembly or the executive branch of state government are putting together task forces or commissions to help advise the state on COVID-19 response, leaders at the North Carolina Center for Nonprofits are ready and able to participate.</p>
03/24/2020 05:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Craig Armstrong	<p>Speaker Moore & Honorable Members of the House Select Committee on Covid 19,</p> <p>With prevention efforts in place for the COVID-19 pandemic, the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars has been following suit with all of the executive orders and guidelines issued by Governor Cooper. Our Posts have been canceling Bingo and Hall Rentals, closing our private, members-only, canteens (bars) as well as finding ways to host meetings electronically (which is quite challenging for some of our older members). Nonetheless, we are weathering the storm just like everyone else and adapting new and creative ways to continue our mission of helping veterans and their families through this pandemic. We have been following all of the precautions and advice from the State Health Agencies, CDC, and the White House at a significant blow and financial hardships to our local organizations. The canteens at our Posts across the state are the lifeline to financial independence for many of our affiliates. The income from sales is how they pay their bills, how they fund their relief programs to provide financial grants to veterans and military families in need, and how they stay engaged as an integral part of their local communities. We have already received phone calls from Posts from across the state that if this ban lasts more than 2 weeks, they will be forced to close their doors. We are quite possibly looking at the end of VFW Posts in some communities where they have been a mainstay for over 50 years, some 75. With them goes all of our community outreach programs, our scholarships for the local students, and even more importantly, a place where veterans can come home from war and their time in service and meet with like minded individuals. The VFW has supported the communities of our state as well as state agencies for over 100 years. Most notably in recent history, VFW Posts jumped to action with the recent</p>

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			<p>hurricanes by setting up distribution points, getting thousands of pounds of relief aid and over \$125,000 in cash into our communities to not only help veterans but everyone. We didn't go searching for the news trucks, maybe we should have, but that is the nature of our organization. The eagerness to serve never ends.</p> <p>To continue that trend, we want to offer up our Posts as possible meeting and distribution sites for either drive-thru testing and/or food, water and relief materials distribution sites. The VFW has 138 Posts across our state, with some of them on very large properties ideal for handling cases like this. Not to mention thousands upon thousands of members eager to serve. We encourage you all to reach out to our Department Headquarters and let us know how we can help. We know that the Governor's decision to close all bars and restaurants was a tough one to make and we are truly sorry that it has had to come to this; just know that the VFW stands behind it for the safety of everyone in North Carolina. As we mentioned above though, this is going to create hardships that we don't know if we will be able to bounce back from. Communities all over the state are looking at possibly losing their VFWs and that will be a sad day for not only our veterans but everyone in those communities.</p> <p>As veterans, we are usually last to step up to the plate and ask for help. We want to try and fix everything ourselves but this is something we don't think we will be able to do without your help.</p> <p>Therefore the Department of North Carolina Veterans of Foreign Wars is requesting the following from the North Carolina General Assembly in regards to our Posts:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. That all ABC permit renewals that are due by April 30th be waived or postponed to a later date to allow our Posts to regain lost revenue due to the closures. 2. That utilities and mortgage payments be waived or postponed until after Posts are allowed to reopen. <p>If none of that is possible,</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. The State of North Carolina implements a financial grant to help recoup lost revenue for non-profit veterans' organizations in order to ensure that they may remain fiscally solvent and as an integral part of their communities once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted. <p>Without these measures put into place for our states' major veteran non-profits, we are surely going to see a demise in our ability to help our veterans and their families in need. We ask that you please consider these requests with your highest regard. As a non-profit organization, we do not receive the same protections as many businesses across our state receive and the economic impact to us will be something that will be immensely difficult to recover from.</p> <p>We want to thank you for your time and consideration and we look forward to hearing from you all soon.</p>

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03/24/2020 05:46 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Tom Baker	<p>Craig Armstrong State Commander NC Veterans of Foreign Wars</p> <p>In accordance with Executive Orders 118 and 120 issued by Governor Roy Cooper, Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 7383 in Cary, North Carolina has ceased operations of our canteen & bar as well as our event venue rental business. As a 501(c)(19) Congressionally Chartered Veterans Service Organization we rely on those sales to keep the doors open, lights on, and programs funded.</p> <p>VFW Post 7383 has supported North Carolina and the Western Wake community for the last 50 years. In just the last four years our Post has distributed over \$42,000 in relief grants to veterans and military families in need, half of those grants occurred in 2019. We responded to the Governor's call during Hurricane Florence by collecting 4,000 lbs in relief supplies and convoying them to other VFW facilities in the hardest-hit areas for distribution. We stand ready to assist the State during this pandemic and would like to offer our property in Cary as a possible meeting and distribution site for either drive-thru testing and/or food, water, and relief supplies distribution.</p> <p>On March 17th VFW North Carolina Commander Craig Armstrong sent a letter to Governor Cooper requesting that:</p> <p>ABC Permit renewals due by April 30th be waived or postponed to a later date Utility and mortgage payments waived or postponed until after Posts are able to reopen.</p> <p>If none of that is possible,</p> <p>We ask the State to implement a financial grant to help recover lost revenue for non-profit veterans organizations in order to ensure that we remain an integral part of our community once COVID-19 restrictions have been lifted.</p> <p>The local community will need a great deal of help to bounce back, and we want to ensure that we are there for them in Western Wake County when they need us. We are asking for some breathing room so we are able to maintain fiscal solvency through this crisis. Waiving these fees and taxes will ensure that we are best positioned to aid our city, county, state, and nation in recovery efforts. Our Post Membership has fought in every major war since World War II, and as such, we look at closing our facility as a small sacrifice as part of the war effort against this pandemic, but we need some help from you and your colleagues on the House Select Committee on COVID-19 and the North Carolina General Assembly.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration, we look forward to hearing from you soon.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>

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			David Wagoner Commander VFW Post 7383
			Rich Grimes Adjutant VFW Post 7383
			Tom Baker State Legislative Liaison NC VFW
03/24/2020 07:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Kerrie Stepp	I think it is important to spell out what is considered essential... there are plants in buncombe county where hundreds of people go to work closely together. I have a small child with asthma and husband that is in his 60s with diabetes. If I bring the virus home it could kill them both. What do people like myself do?
03/24/2020 07:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Tiffany Garris	Due to COVID 19 I am very concern about healthcare workers being exposed to this virus due to lack of PPE. It is imperative that these needed supplies be made available for healthcare workers. Also, health care workers should be afforded with hazardous pay.
03/24/2020 07:27 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Christina Pelech	Please consider some relief package for the self-employed & small business owners.
03/24/2020 08:04 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr John Pritchard	Let's set aside the panic, hysteria and political posturing . We can't remain shut down very long and economy has already been crippled as it is. I'm a senior so am extra vulnerable, but still recognize we can't stay shut down. Release the Rx that have already been proven effective as both a treatment and possibly a preventive. Quite dithering and let's get moving forward.
03/24/2020 08:45 PM	Economic Support Working Group	HOMETRUST CALL CENTERS Dana Stone	HomeTrust Bank is endangering their employees who work in call centers. Their blatant disregard for employees' health is heart breaking. HomeTrust Bank is putting money above people's well-being. For the love of God- shut down the call centers!
03/24/2020 08:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Pam Smith	Hello, thank you for your hard work. Please help landlords take it easy on us. Can you subsidize rent? Or, can you subsidize mortgages and give an incentive to waive rent?
03/24/2020 08:59 PM	Health Care Working Group	Deborah McGovern	Now is the time to expand Medicaid. The citizens of our state have been deprived for a long time but Covid-19 makes action by this group imperative..NOW!
03/24/2020 09:22 PM	Health Care Working Group	PA-C Alisha DeTroye	Given our current state of emergency, I encourage the committee to consider relaxing administrative burdens that may inhibit PA flexibility to meet health care access needs. PAs are trained in a generalist medical model which prepares them to have flexibility to treat patients in various specialties. Current law in NC requires registering a supervising physician of the same practice area and creating a supervisory agreement between the physician and PA. Based on pandemic predictions, PAs need to have the flexibility to shift specialties and meet health care volunteer needs without filing paperwork which is not additive to the team based patient care already in place. It is critical that the legislature act today so that streamlined disaster plans can be put into place with efficiency and accuracy. Without change, barriers will exist to PAs helping the team meet health care demands in this critical time.
03/24/2020 09:29 PM	Economic Support Working Group		As a 1099 independent contractor, I do not qualify for unemployment benefits. Will the State provide a relief fund for these workers? I would be happy to fill out a skills assessment survey to be matched to a need in my community in exchange for relief

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03/24/2020 11:39 PM	Education Working Group	William Smith	support. Secondary classes in closed districts in NC should move to pass fail for the Spring semester.
03/25/2020 07:20 AM	Health Care Working Group	About covid-19 Melissa Chenoweth	Yes my name is Melissa and I do work in an area where people are Reckless people do not want to hear the dangers of this virus and is truly scary every day going to work and seeing people not take any heed at all not wear gloves or not white their stations down in this Factory here in Mills River North Carolina I do agree that the state needs to shut down as a state of emergency before it gets worse until they can get the cases that they have under control and maybe possibly even more I do believe that we do need a stimulus packet also to help those hard-working people like me that live by paycheck to paycheck to help us not lose the things that we have are get evicted from our Apartments rent or those with mortgages something needs to happen now
03/25/2020 08:00 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Shelter Carrie May	Would be in favor of a state wide shelter in place. Would also like it to encompass restaurants. Too many restaurant (even starbucks) employees are heading to work with needless exposure to the virus. Despite paid leave, some feel obligated to work when sick because there is "no coverage" for their shifts.
03/25/2020 08:11 AM	Economic Support Working Group	P A	With Gov Cooper ordering people who operate businesses to stay home, will he be giving up his salary as everyone else is doing? Will he be going on reduce salary like those with unemployment benefits? Will he make a show of solidarity with people who do not rely on government salaries?
03/25/2020 08:13 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	J B	Why should anyone follow Gov Cooper's orders to stay at home? He has demonstrated a lack of respect for US laws in claiming NC a sanctuary state. Why should we respect his edicts when he does not follow orders from his superior, US government. He is lawless. Why should people follow his dictatorial edicts?
03/25/2020 08:18 AM	Health Care Working Group	T R	FL Gov DeSantis is cracking down on travelers from NY-NJ-CT who are fleeing hot spots. They are fleeing the 3rd world NYC area and bringing coronavirus with them to FL. Gov DeSantis is telling them to quarantine for 14 days, following the orders of Dr. Birx. Once Florida's cases skyrocket, will they be coming to NC. What is your plan to quarantine people fleeing hot spots like NYC and CA? Why are NC residents punished with lockdown when travelers are bringing in the disease daily?
03/25/2020 08:20 AM	Health Care Working Group	B A	Are Cooper and the NC DHHS getting their models from the Imperial College UK projection? Those are called into question and debunked already as being the worst case scenario multiplied by the worst case scenario. In other words, not realistic for NC. Where are their stats and models coming from? Why are we being compared to NYC or China? It's wrong to treat us like China or NYC. Totally different conditions.
03/25/2020 08:24 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	J R	Is Gov. Cooper part of Covid Act Now, a group of Democrats seeking to displace Trump? Google it. 13 states have stay at home orders. The majority of those have Democrat governors. This is no coincidence. Why are you allowing Cooper to make this political?

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03/25/2020 08:27 AM	Health Care Working Group	B K	<p>Re: SANCTIONS</p> <p>What are you doing to sanction the person who went to the Lego Festival and got others sick?</p> <p>What are you doing to sanction the person who went to the Millenium concert and got others sick at the PNC arena?</p> <p>How will you enforce sanctions?</p>
03/25/2020 08:30 AM	Health Care Working Group	C R	<p>When will we have meaningful stats? Gov. Cooper reported that there are 11 hospitalized due to coronavirus (Charlotte Observer). Out of a population of 11 million, that's ONE in a Million. Why don't we say, ONE in a Million NC residents are hospitalized, instead of creating a panic?</p>
03/25/2020 08:34 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	J S	<p>Why are we not getting more data? Why are you not reporting data in context? Why are you not comparing this to flu data? Or, especially Swine flu H1N1 data? Why can't we get comparative data? You are irresponsibly creating fear and panic by not reporting limited data in context.</p>
03/25/2020 08:36 AM	Health Care Working Group	C L	<p>The horrific swine flu hospitalized a quarter of a million people and killed 12,000 in the US. There was no panic, no shutdown, no quarantine. No one considered it.</p> <p>We haven't come even close to those numbers, yet Gov Cooper is creating panic. Why?</p>
03/25/2020 08:38 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	S F	<p>If 35,000 human beings are being killed each year in car accidents in the US, but no one is forced to stay home due to the carnage, why are North Carolinians forced to stay home for ZERO deaths in this time? It's been 3 weeks since the first case.</p> <p>Why such draconian measures?</p>
03/25/2020 08:40 AM	Education Working Group	Laura Gosnell	<p>I am writing today to ask you to waive the requirement for homeschool students to complete an end of the year assessment as required by state law.</p> <p>It may seem that homeschooling has not been effected by the COVID-19 shutdowns, but that is simply not true. Many of the components we use to educate our children such as co-ops, enrichment activities, tutoring, and the library have either been cancelled or dramatically restructured.</p> <p>In addition many of us, including my family, choose to do in person assessments that would require us to break social distance protocol to complete, if we can even find a proctor willing to risk themselves.</p> <p>These tests also cost money. Many of us, including myself, find ourselves laid off from the jobs that often fund our homeschool.</p> <p>When the general assembly considers canceling exams for public school students, please remember this effects homeschool students as well.</p>
03/25/2020 08:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working		<p>Charlotte has the most cases in NC. Mecklenburg Health Director Gibbie Harris said that residents from other counties are putting stress on their local hospital system. Possibly that includes SC also. (WBTV) The Charlotte Observer reported one case as a "traveler". What does that mean? Someone fleeing NYC or an illegal? Why are we allowing</p>

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	Group		Mecklenburg to care for those that belong to other states or municipalities? That brings up the question as to why we are allowing outsiders to come in and increase our coronavirus numbers, which increases our lockdown. Private citizens are locked in their home and the sick are running rampant and sickening others.
03/25/2020 08:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Why aren't we getting more information? Are the cases from the young -20 to 40 year olds? If in NC we have a rising count of cases, will it be reported how many of those are cases are imported from China, from SF, from LA, from NYC, from SC? We need to know how the infection is coming in to the state. We need information.
03/25/2020 08:48 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lisa Castellano	Please consider offering some form of unemployment, not just a loan, for self employed. I am a self employed massage therapist who not only lost income to support my family, but income to cover business expenses that occur monthly whether or not I am working, such as rent, phone, insurance and online scheduling will need to be maintained for when we are able to go back to seeing clients. This has put a financial burden on me two fold, personally and professionally as a business owner who needs to maintain my location.
03/25/2020 08:51 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Why are we being compared to NYC? Their infection rate is 8 to 10 times more than other areas. NYC area: 66% of new cases in US and 56% of all cases. 1 in 1000 are infected. 8 to 10 times more than other areas. Dr. Fauci We are not NYC. We do not have an influx of thousands of international travelers and immigrants from foreign infected countries. We do not dump prisoners on the streets. We do not have a huge homeless population. We do not have wall to wall people. We do not have a Chinatown. We do not have endless smog and pollution. We are not a sanctuary city. NYC and NY have encouraged a lawless environment by creating a sanctuary state, etc. Why are we experiencing draconian measures like NYC, since we are not them?
03/25/2020 08:51 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Lisa Riegel	On behalf of the 1.1 million AARP members and their families in North Carolina, we would like to recommend that the committee consider ways to expand paid leave for employees to care for their loved ones who are sick. Many employees are primary caregivers for a loved one with a chronic disease, who may be particularly affected by infectious disease. We need to be prepared to better support these critical family caregivers. The 2019 update report in the AARP Public Policy Institute series, "Valuing the Invaluable" finds 1.33 million family caregivers in North Carolina are providing an estimated 1.1 billion hours of care to ensure the health and well-being of parents, spouses, partners, and friends with chronic, disabling, or serious health conditions~-. The care they provide is worth a staggering \$13.1 billion and enables people to live independently in their homes and communities as they age. These numbers will likely increase in light of the COVID 19 pandemic and thus the need is even more urgent to better support these critical caregivers. Thus we urge you to support these caregivers with policies that expand family caregiving paid leave.
03/25/2020 08:53 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &		Reference: https://www.aarp.org/ppi/info-2015/valuing-the-invaluable-2015-update.html 30 people in homeless shelters in NYC have coronavirus. Are you aware that NYC sends its homeless here on busses and trains? Why aren't we stopping the flow of the infected into our state?

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
03/25/2020 08:53 AM	Health Care Working Group		30 people in homeless shelters in NYC have coronavirus. Are you aware that NYC sends its homeless here on busses and trains? Why aren't we stopping the flow of the infected into our state?
03/25/2020 08:55 AM	Education Working Group		How will you make sure that the \$50 million that is going to the teachers is not going into their teacher's union as a slush fund for political activity? How will you account for the money being spent?
03/25/2020 08:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		How about Duke? Are we going to ask Duke U why they brought 15-30 coronavirus cases back to NC when they brought their students/employees back. After all, they knew or should have known that their cohort was contaminated with the virus since they left 4 behind, too sick to travel and return home. Since the greatest percentage of cases are in the 20-39 age group, who monitored those Duke cases in that age range and can say that they did not break their quarantine and contaminate others with the virus?
03/25/2020 08:59 AM	Health Care Working Group		Who will monitor Duke U and its campus in Wuhan China, home of the wuhan coronavirus? Who will monitor quarantines? What about UNC and its 2 virologists from Wuhan? Who will monitor that they don't go back and forth to bring the disease back to us?
03/25/2020 09:02 AM	Economic Support Working Group		What are you doing about the threat of suicide? Portland has 23 % more suicide threats since the state of emergency was declared. Will suicide deaths be reported as an outcome from the harsh coronavirus actions of the Cooper and his government? Will you accurately report suicides and depression from the effects of the quarantine and the effects of people going bankrupt? Will you report bankruptcies?
03/25/2020 09:02 AM	Health Care Working Group		What are you doing about the threat of suicide? Portland has 23 % more suicide threats since the state of emergency was declared. Will suicide deaths be reported as an outcome from the harsh coronavirus actions of the Cooper and his government? Will you accurately report suicides and depression from the effects of the quarantine and the effects of people going bankrupt? Will you report bankruptcies?
03/25/2020 09:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		What about incidents of physical aggression in homes, where a husband loses a job and beats his wife and children out of anger and depression? Will those be tallied with the outcomes of the draconian measures undertaken by Gov. Cooper? We need full reporting and transparency on how these lockdowns are affecting families.
03/25/2020 09:06 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Why are we letting the Governor take unconstitutional actions? Why is the Wake county sheriff allowed to take unconstitutional actions? What are you doing about the loss of constitutional right to freely gather and associate?
03/25/2020 09:10 AM	Health Care Working Group		Create less panic and hysteria. Report things in context. When Israel has a coronavirus death, they publish the sex, the age, and what if any, the underlying conditions were. Will you do that? That's what we need. We are asking that

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			you report (Example) an 80 year old male, who had advanced emphysema, died of coronavirus. That does not release a name and is entirely appropriate, and very necessary to reduce panic.
03/25/2020 09:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Why is this a false dichotomy? We can stay well AND we can keep the economy running. We can take the virus seriously. We can wash our hands. The sick can stay home. We can quarantine. AND We can go to work. The senior citizens can take precautions. We can stay well AND we can keep the economy running.
03/25/2020 09:14 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Why aren't the needs of North Carolinians taken seriously? Why are travelers coming in daily to infect our state. Ordinary citizens are being locked in their homes while the sick arrive daily and infect more North Carolinians. Ordinary citizens are having rights taken away while felons roam freely, terrorizing neighborhoods.
03/25/2020 09:15 AM	Health Care Working Group		Why aren't the needs of North Carolinians taken seriously? Why are travelers coming in daily to infect our state. Ordinary citizens are being locked in their homes while the sick arrive daily and infect more North Carolinians. Ordinary citizens are having rights taken away while felons roam freely, terrorizing neighborhoods.
03/25/2020 09:17 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Gilbert Pagan	We need to protect our voting system. No relaxing of restrictions of any kind. No all mail voting. Or allowing of any new regs that would be open to voter fraud, multiple votes, illegals voting.
03/25/2020 09:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		The Governor doesn't respond to FOIA requests. Why should we follow his orders? He is lawless, why do we have to do what he says? Why isn't anyone checking to see what position the Governor is seeking in a new Dem administration? Why does the Gov travel to NYC to collect \$\$\$ and that is not a subject of scrutiny? Isn't this a Democrat coup by another means? These actions taken by Cooper are not for NC, they are selfishly for Cooper's reputation.
03/25/2020 09:24 AM	Health Care Working Group		Why are we allowing people to drive in to our state? Why are we allowing people to fly into our state? What is your plan to quarantine those arrivals? Who will monitor this? People are fleeing to our good healthcare, and away from their disastrous cities. How will you keep infections out? How will we know how outsiders are bringing infection in??? Why should citizens be forced to stay home while outsiders continue to bring disease to us????
03/25/2020 09:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	B W	Who will watch over our constitutional rights? Our right to assemble? Our right to defend ourselves in our own homes? Our right to free speech?
03/25/2020 09:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mrs. Elaine Willers	I do not think we should do voting by mail!

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
03/25/2020 09:29 AM	Health Care Working Group		How will you say that NC is closed to outsiders, since we are a magnet state?
03/25/2020 09:29 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Don Langley	I oppose the proposal to go to elections all by mail. The potential for abuse and fraud is too great, particularly given the resistance to having any kind of voter ID requirement at any point in the process. Thank you for your consideration.
03/25/2020 09:32 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Jay Delancy	NO Vote-by-Mail system, please! Our State Board of Elections is incapable of managing such a process and here's why: As of March 14, they reported losing track of 994,172 voters on their rolls. These missing voters are all coded "Inactive," which means that someday in the future, they can be removed. But for now, VBM protocol requires the SBOE to send a ballot to each of those voters at their last known address. Think of it: With nearly a million excess ballots flooding into the system and no credible type fo voter ID law in place, how are we supposed to trust any announced results from such an election? Please delay our elections until we know more about the extent of this Covid-19 pandemic.
03/25/2020 09:36 AM	Health Care Working Group		Why is this being treated as a worst case scenario, creating panic and hysteria. This is complete overreaction. We are not China. None of our cities are as big as those in NY, let alone China. We do not have damaged our lungs from smog. Most of us don't live in high rises filled with thousands of people, next to high rises filled with thousands of people. We don't walk wall to wall people on the street. Those are extremely unhealthy conditions for any human population. They are already at risk. But we are not China, so why are we being treated as if we are???
03/25/2020 09:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		All Elections should be postponed. All Primaries, All runoffs, the November elections. Since citizens have been restricted, and the right to gather has been taken away, we have not been allowed to canvass. Candidates have not been allowed to meet people. If work and taxes are postponed, everything else should be also. Everyone should bear the pain of the lockdown, not just private businesses.
03/25/2020 09:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group		All Elections should be postponed. All Primaries, All runoffs, the November elections. Since citizens have been restricted, and the right to gather has been taken away, we have not been allowed to canvass. Candidates have not been allowed to meet people. If work and taxes are postponed, everything else should be also. Everyone should bear the pain of the lockdown, not just private businesses.
03/25/2020 09:48 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr jweeks Weak	An all mail in voting system would be unwise and too easy to manipulate and cheat.
03/25/2020 09:50 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Teachers should not receive their salaries unless they are working. Private citizens and businesses aren't getting paid. Why should teachers? The Governor should receive a reduced salary, because he has reduced the salaries and income of hard working people. He should not be allowed to make everyone poor while he walks away with his regular salary and his fundraising donations in a time of crisis. Why is

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/25/2020 09:54 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mark Jones	<p>the Gov allowed to fundraise during a crisis? He is profitting off this hysteria and panic he is creating.</p> <p>I'm a wildlife scientist (30 years experience) with some experiences with diseases in animals. I think it is clear that our Society cannot withstand the economic impact of months or years of lockdown. We must find a better solution. We could better handle this crisis by protecting the vulnerable segments of our society (elderly, people with compromised immunity, etc.) and allowing most other healthy segments of our Society to get on about their daily lives while taking precautions when possible. Over 95% of people have mild or moderate symptoms. We need to build "herd immunity" in our population or risk having to continue to deal with this disease and lockdown processes in the coming Fall/Winter. Herd Immunity will also protect the more vulnerable down the road by lessening the spread of the disease. Doctors I trust tell me this disease is less lethal than at least two other flu-like viruses we have experienced in the last twenty years. COVID 19 does appear to spread faster. That is all that makes it special.</p> <p>The death rate is likely exaggerated because there is no accurate estimate of the denominator (total number infected) in the equation. Death rates are determined by dividing the number who die (numerator) by the number infected (denominator). It is basic math. Since we are almost certainly underestimating the infection rate, we are over-estimating the death rate. To put it another way, if we know of 1,000 infected people and 50 have died, we think the death rate is 5% or 50/1,000. However, there are probably 5,000 infected people since a huge segment of the population show no symptoms or minor symptoms. That means the death rate is 50/5,000 or one percent (1%). That puts it in line with most flu-like diseases. It is impossible to know the death rate until we know the infection rates. Remember that death rates for common colds and flus approach 8% in nursing homes in normal years. Everyone needs to really think about and study the numbers before believing we need to lockdown society for months. With our technology, we can protect the elderly and vulnerable without destroying the Country and turning it into Venezuela.</p> <p>The economic response to this could be handled with unemployment insurance rather than a \$2 trillion payout to everyone. Most people are still employed. Government workers, first responders, medical workers, manufacturing, etc. are all working. Why pay everyone and put the Country trillions of dollars more in debt? We should help those directly impacted and not issue blanket payments to anyone for anything.</p> <p>Finally, everyone needs to remember we are the greatest and most free Country on the planet. We should be mindful that if we sacrifice our freedoms and liberties for a "perceived" (probably false) sense of security, we stand to lose everything that made America great in the first place.</p>
03/25/2020 09:55 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>When will the Legislature reign in the unconstitutional power grab of the governor? He has created hysteria and panic, and means to use it for his selfish political gains. Why should anyone listen to the Governor, who has created a lawless sanctuary state and has not restrained Dem sheriffs who allow criminals and rapists walk the streets?</p>
03/25/2020 09:55 AM	Continuity of State		<p>The last thing we need on top of all the other challenges with COVID-19 is an election held</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		under a cloud of distrust. We must not surrender the integrity of our electoral process in order to meet the November 3rd date. Far better to enact a one-time delay, if necessary, to ensure public confidence in our electoral process.
03/25/2020 09:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Sebrina Oglesby	I am against all mail voting!!! If needed we can take precautions wear gloves, car voting something! I am completely against sole mail-in voting!
03/25/2020 10:00 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr James Johnson	I am 100% AGAINST mail in voting. As of early March, NC's voter rolls had 994,172 missing (or "Inactive") voters who would still be mailed a ballot under a VBM system. With that many ballots floating around and no serious voter ID law, those ballots could change the outcome of a statewide election
03/25/2020 10:01 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Joy Beshears	We home school our son and are required by the state of NC to give yearly achievement tests. I have some concern over the handling of tests, as they are shipped from the triangle area of NC . I have considered a computerized test, but my son is not familiar with computers yet, and this, I feel, would not be a fair format. He requires extra time to test, so paper tests are most suited for our needs. There is an in-person test given by an administrator, but this is not advised given the necessary meeting with another individual. In addition, we are self-employed. Due to COVID-19 our sales are down 75%. We will be struggling to pay bills as it is, without the further expense of purchasing tests, which cost \$40-\$100. We are also caring for a family member dying of cancer. Therefore, the emotional and financial tolls of this, combined with the COVID-19 pandemic, are quite distressing. I urge you to consider these things and make a decision regarding the state requirements for testing in home schools and private schools. Is this really a time to add undue stress on our children and families? I think not. Kind regards, Joy Beshears
03/25/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		FL is now closed, since all their new cases are coming from NYC. That is a special hazard for the elderly population in FL. Why are you not closing NC? We don't want the NYC infections. I come from NY. (NYC is a sh*thole city. It's a Dem city. DeBlasio is a joke.) You need to protect NC citizens first. We don't want the curse of NYC and its lawlessness upon us.
03/25/2020 10:04 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Patrick Ingram	The unemployment needs to be reworked. We paid off the fed debt McCrory wanted,now we need to help your tax paying workers falling on hard times now because of COVID-19. There may be additional federal money we could get that is being blocked by old policy remove it now!
03/25/2020 10:06 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Kristen Hill	Freelancers, gig workers, contract and self-employed workers all need to be able to file for unemployment. We've lost money too, won't have any way to pay bills because we've lost work. Please help us and don't forget about us.
03/25/2020 10:09 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Teachers should not receive a salary unless they are teaching. Let them go on unemployment like all the restaurant workers.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/25/2020 10:12 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Will Leimenstoll	Please enact universal vote by mail to ensure that everyone legally allowed to vote is actually able to vote safely and remove the cloud of uncertainty around the November election.
03/25/2020 10:13 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Marcus Kindley	There has been reported that a push is being made for Mail in ballots statewide. We know that the elections system NOW has many problems. This would only enhance the opportunity for there to be fraud throughout the system. We know that such a maneuver would throw our elections into the courts causing a further disruption on the election of our officials. WE MUST not do this!!!! It would set a precedent that would destroy the integrity of our elections in North Carolina.
03/25/2020 10:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group		Why is it that government worker are sitting pretty with their paycheck, while private businesses are being screwed? Totally unfair power grab by Cooper. Unconstitutional.
03/25/2020 10:16 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Mary Jennings	I have concerns over a "Mail-in" Voting System being currently discussed. I do not see enough safe guards in place for this to occur without serious fraud opportunities. There is (currently) no way to verify the recipients of a mail-in ballot are still alive and capable of voting freely and independently. Also, there seems to be a potential for mishandling of ballots and voters who have moved without an accurate change of address on file. Thank you for all your efforts! Mj
03/25/2020 10:20 AM	Economic Support Working Group	NC Digital Kids Library Lisa Martin	<p>Dear Speaker Moore and Members of the Coronavirus Response Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of the NC Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) members, thank you for your leadership and service on the House Coronavirus response committee. To that end, I offer some information about a resource that will be helpful to K-12 students across the state who are at home for an extended period.</p> <p>In 2017, the NCPLDA launched the NC Kids Digital Library, which provides access to children's e-books, e-audio books and video primarily for children in K-4th grades. Working with Overdrive, we were able to secure permission for the first digital library in the United States available to children statewide. This was made possible through funding provided by the General Assembly. Non-recurring support provided in FY18 and FY19 enabled NCPLDA to build and maintain the collection. The FY2020 budget included a \$200,000 recurring appropriation for NC Kids Digital Library, as well as an increase to State Aid for Public Libraries. Unfortunately, because the budget was not passed, NC Kids Digital Library went unfunded and overall library funding remained flat. NCPLDA has sustained the NC Kids Digital Library permanent collection of one copy-one user titles, but a number of simultaneous-unlimited access contracts that ensure every child has access have expired. NCPLDA has also been unable to provide access to new content offered by publishers due to limited funds.</p> <p>Due to the Coronavirus school closure, public libraries across the state have received calls from school systems asking about access to NC Kids Digital Library and requesting that NCPLDA not only add additional fiction titles, but include non-fiction to help support at home schooling.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>With this week's announcement that schools will remain closed through May 15th, NCPLDA wants to make sure that children have access to content that they need. The NC Kids Digital Library is already positioned to help meet reading needs across the state if additional funding can be secured. Many county libraries have provided the digital access through school partnerships using student ID numbers. For school systems that did not already have partnerships in place, local libraries are offering temporary digital access cards for students to use.</p> <p>NCPLDA expects to see public library/school partnerships grow next year, especially if access to needed content is secured. Digital content is not cheap. Securing access to a digital library with a vast collection of materials can be challenging for individual school systems. NCPLDA has received permission from publishers to provide statewide access; thus, the simultaneous use purchases made can save thousands of dollars for individual schools, counties and the state.</p> <p>While the ratified budget contains an appropriation of \$200,000 recurring for the NC Kids Digital Library, an increase to \$400,000 would allow NCPLDA to renew expired contracts, meet holds requests and metered usage demands AND expand the collection to include additional simultaneous use and single use non-fiction resources that are being requested by school districts.</p> <p>NCPLDA is preparing carts so when funding is received, orders can be expedited and NCPLDA can have the additional materials ready within 24-48 hours. Steve Potash, CEO/ President of Overdrive (digital content provider for libraries and schools) is also working to secure temporary extensions on a few key simultaneous access contracts, which is extremely helpful for now. NCPLDA is working diligently to ensure that North Carolina school children do not experience the biggest "summer reading slide" ever; however, funding is critical!</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request. Now, more than ever, schools and libraries can work together to better leverage resources and expands the impact of state funds.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need additional information.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Lisa Martin lisa@cap-ad.com 919-880-2955</p>
03/25/2020 10:21 AM	Education Working Group	NC Digital Kids Library Lisa Martin	<p>Dear Speaker Moore and Members of the Coronavirus Response Committee,</p> <p>On behalf of the NC Public Library Directors Association (NCPLDA) members, thank you for your leadership and service on the House Coronavirus response committee. To that end, I offer some information about a resource that will be helpful to K-12 students across the state who are at home for an extended period.</p>

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			<p>In 2017, the NCPLDA launched the NC Kids Digital Library, which provides access to children's e-books, e-audio books and video primarily for children in K-4th grades. Working with Overdrive, we were able to secure permission for the first digital library in the United States available to children statewide. This was made possible through funding provided by the General Assembly. Non-recurring support provided in FY18 and FY19 enabled NCPLDA to build and maintain the collection. The FY2020 budget included a \$200,000 recurring appropriation for NC Kids Digital Library, as well as an increase to State Aid for Public Libraries. Unfortunately, because the budget was not passed, NC Kids Digital Library went unfunded and overall library funding remained flat. NCPLDA has sustained the NC Kids Digital Library permanent collection of one copy-one user titles, but a number of simultaneous-unlimited access contracts that ensure every child has access have expired. NCPLDA has also been unable to provide access to new content offered by publishers due to limited funds.</p> <p>Due to the Coronavirus school closure, public libraries across the state have received calls from school systems asking about access to NC Kids Digital Library and requesting that NCPLDA not only add additional fiction titles, but include non-fiction to help support at home schooling.</p> <p>With this week's announcement that schools will remain closed through May 15th, NCPLDA wants to make sure that children have access to content that they need. The NC Kids Digital Library is already positioned to help meet reading needs across the state if additional funding can be secured. Many county libraries have provided the digital access through school partnerships using student ID numbers. For school systems that did not already have partnerships in place, local libraries are offering temporary digital access cards for students to use.</p> <p>NCPLDA expects to see public library/school partnerships grow next year, especially if access to needed content is secured. Digital content is not cheap. Securing access to a digital library with a vast collection of materials can be challenging for individual school systems. NCPLDA has received permission from publishers to provide statewide access; thus, the simultaneous use purchases made can save thousands of dollars for individual schools, counties and the state.</p> <p>While the ratified budget contains an appropriation of \$200,000 recurring for the NC Kids Digital Library, an increase to \$400,000 would allow NCPLDA to renew expired contracts, meet holds requests and metered usage demands AND expand the collection to include additional simultaneous use and single use non-fiction resources that are being requested by school districts.</p> <p>NCPLDA is preparing carts so when funding is received, orders can be expedited and NCPLDA can have the additional materials ready within 24-48 hours. Steve Potash, CEO/ President of Overdrive (digital content provider for libraries and schools) is also working to secure temporary extensions on a few key simultaneous access contracts, which is extremely helpful for now. NCPLDA is working diligently to ensure that North Carolina school children do not experience the biggest "summer reading slide" ever; however,</p>

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			<p>funding is critical!</p> <p>Thank you for considering this request. Now, more than ever, schools and libraries can work together to better leverage resources and expands the impact of state funds.</p> <p>Please let me know if you need additional information.</p> <p>Best regards,</p> <p>Lisa Martin lisa@cap-ad.com 919-880-2955</p>
03/25/2020 10:42 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	You need to expand Medicaid IMMEDIATELY so 600,000+ North Carolinians have access to healthcare. Closing the coverage gap is one of the easiest and most important ways North Carolina can help flatten the curve and stop the spread of COVID-19!
03/25/2020 10:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	MaryBe McMillan	The legislature needs to act ASAP to extend unemployment benefits and increase the maximum amount. We are almost dead last in the amount and duration of benefits offered. It would be unconscionable to take no action and let jobless workers miss out on federally extended benefits. More money in workers' pockets helps families and it helps our economy by increasing consumer spending. Please take action NOW to help thousands of your jobless constituents.
03/25/2020 10:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Robert Dixon	No elections via mail in ballots. Enough fraud issues already do not make them worse.
03/25/2020 10:52 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Lauren Acome	I am contacting you with concerns about state testing for the 2019-2020 school year during the Covid-19 crisis. It is imperative that the General Assembly approves the State Board of Education's waiver to eliminate all state testing this year. As a public school Administrator and a parent of four children who attend public school in North Carolina, I firmly believe that it is not in our students' best interest to take a state assessment. Although I feel strongly that state testing only reveals the socioeconomic inequities across the state, I am even more passionate about it this year. It is both unjust and inequitable to continue with state testing for the 2019-2020 school year. We are currently working to support and educate students and families who are more worried about where their next meal is going to come from or how they are to complete online learning without internet at home. I have watched teachers across the state come together to provide resources for students to continue their education during a time of uncertainty. They are working tirelessly to support the whole-child. I am asking you to do what is in the best interest of our students and to demonstrate your respect for our public school teachers by approving the waiver for all state testing.
03/25/2020 10:54 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mrs Carla McElroy	My hubby and I are still listed as active voters, despite the fact we have moved out of state. Mailing ballots would cause us to receive them at our old address. Since NC does not verify identities for elections, this will allow anyone who gets their hands on our ballots to mail in votes for us. This is wrong, and there is no information on the BOE website on

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		how to remove yourself from the voter rolls.
03/25/2020 10:55 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	North Carolina must close the coverage gap today and expand Medicaid without work requirements. We need to help protect our hospitals now and prevent them from being overwhelmed. Providing over 600,000 North Carolinians with access to quality healthcare will dramatically reduce the strain on our already overburdened hospitals and will save lives!
03/25/2020 10:58 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Jeffrey Stites	<p>Government mandated closures of private businesses are clearly "takings" under the 5th Amendment of the US Constitution. Loans are not "just compensation" for that taking, which while it may be necessary for the public interest, is no different from taking someone's home to build a road.</p> <p>I would hope it goes without saying that public employee raises, yes, including teachers' raises, are off the table until the state's small businesses have recovered.</p> <p>I know it's a federal issue rather than a state one, but wouldn't SBA loan forgiveness make a ton more economic sense than student loan forgiveness at this time? Recipients of SBA loans have already proven that their business plan is sound, their business is likely to succeed, and they are competent to run the business. It's as close to a guaranteed return on economic stimulus as you're likely to get.</p>
03/25/2020 11:01 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Emily Brown	<p>I'm sure others will say this as well, but I'd like to take this opportunity to add my voice. Standardized testing should be canceled not only because there's a strong chance we won't be back in school and any data gleaned after missing 2+ months of solid teaching/learning will be biased and inaccurate, but more importantly because it's cruel to put that kind of pressure on our students and families at this time; right now everyone's first priority should be focusing on staying safe and healthy, and doing what we can to support those saving lives, not thinking about standards. In a life-and-death crisis like our country is currently facing, we need to take a hard look at our priorities and put student safety and well-being above all else.</p> <p>Thank you for your time!</p>
03/25/2020 11:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Charles Brown	Take whatever steps necessary to insure that voting occurs in November (mail in or drive by and drop off). Protect the elections.
03/25/2020 11:05 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Janice Provost	I am against voting by mail because right now, the candidates cannot get out to meet the voters. We need a chance to meet the candidates in-person and not just through TV ads. VBM would force us to vote for the candidate with the best commercials. We need time to meet the candidates as we have in the past.
03/25/2020 11:07 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Jon Carr	<p>To: Rep. Dobson, Rep. Lambeth, Rep. Jones, Rep. White, Rep. Cunningham and Rep. Carney,</p> <p>Chairs, Health Care Working Group, House Select Committee on COVID-19</p> <p>From: Jon Carr, lobbyist, NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics</p> <p>Re: Needs of Free and Charitable Clinics Due to Covid-19</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
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Date: March 25, 2020

The NC Association of Free and Charitable Clinics (NCAFCC) represents 67 free and charitable clinics and pharmacies across the state that are a part of the State's primary care safety net. NCAFCC's clinics and pharmacies address the health care needs of the uninsured and are supported primarily through private donations and the generous volunteerism of over 7,000 health care providers. During the time of the COVID-19 pandemic, NCAFCC has identified the following critical needs that must be met for their member clinics and pharmacies to continue to provide medical and social services to the state's uninsured population:

1. NCAFCC's member clinics and pharmacies are uniquely positioned to serve uninsured residents in 73 counties of North Carolina but need funding to sustain current operations and to provide additional services to an increasing uninsured population that, according to recognized public health experts, are likely to become "super-spreaders" of the COVID-19 virus. NCAFCC requests \$1,340,000 (\$20,000 average per clinic x 67 member clinics) as additional funding for free and charitable clinics. Without the ongoing intervention of safety-net providers like NCAFCC's clinics and pharmacies, uninsured patients may migrate towards hospital emergency departments at a time when our state is trying to reserve scarce hospital services for COVID-19 patients in serious or critical condition. The need to retain access to safety-net health care providers is heightened by the anticipated rise in uninsured residents due to a growing unemployed workforce whose jobs have been curtailed by state-sponsored steps to slow the spread of the COVID-19 virus. During this time of crisis, additional funding to hire health care professionals, for prescription drugs and medicines, and for general operations are required sustain operations and to meet the emerging health care needs of a growing uninsured population. Funds can be appropriated to the Office of Rural Health for an immediate and equitable distribution as non-competitive, emergency grants. NCAFCC's members' collective operational expenses totaled \$33,780,000 in 2018 to provide health and social services to more than 80,000 uninsured residents. Operational expenses for NCAFCCs members are low compared to other types of providers due to the leveraging of more than 7,000 volunteers each year. This requested appropriation represents 4% of those collective expenses even though we expect that the increased demands upon free and charitable clinics and pharmacies will exceed 4%. NCAFCC will distribute any appropriation in an equitable manner amongst its member clinics without the need for an administrative fee or charge to do so.
2. Some of NCAFCC's members utilize NC MedAssist for their provision of prescription drugs, but not all do. NCAFCC supports additional funds for NC MedAssist through a separate appropriation direct to NC MedAssist, but there is also a need for funding for drugs and medicines (see above appropriation request) for free and charitable clinics that do not utilize MedAssist for any or all of their needs for prescription drugs.
3. In addition, an appropriation of at least \$182,500 to enable NCAFCC to immediately begin to implement its COVID-19 Charitable Clinic Telemedicine Initiative. This Initiative was recently developed in response to the pandemic and there is no funding yet identified or expected to be identified from private sources to fund this Initiative. This funding request is based upon the following: \$ 30,000 for Access to Telemedicine Platform for 55 Free and Charitable Clinics (direct cost from vendor at a 75% discount); \$ 30,000 for Telemedicine Technical Consulting to Onboard 55 Free and Charitable Clinics (pays for

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>physician to onboard clinics); \$ 82,500 to Support Stipend for 55 Free and Charitable Clinics to participate in the Covid-19 Telemedicine Initiative (\$1,500 x 55 clinics, for training, insurance, general costs); and \$ 40,000 in Administrative Support for COVID-19 Telemedicine Initiative (supports NCAFCC in its administration of this Initiative).</p> <p>4. Access to the state's emergency supply of tests for the virus, masks, sanitizers and equipment including PPE suits for parking lot triage.</p> <p>5. Temporary modifications to current law to allow for continued liability limitations to also apply in the delivery of care through telemedicine and to allow a "volunteer" to be paid to encourage the provision of care by health care providers at free clinics and pharmacies; GS 90-21.16 currently provides for limited liability for free clinic volunteers "at a free clinic facility" and this should be modified to expand those same liability protections to include the provision of care through telehealth. GS 90-21.16 also limits the liability protection to providers who do not get paid. NCAFCC anticipates free clinics and pharmacies may need pay providers to sustain operations. DRAFT legislation to temporarily make these changes has been provided directly to the Chairs.</p> <p>6. Increased financial support of the safety net providers in general, including any additional funding NC MedAssist may request at this time, in separate appropriations for these same purposes.</p> <p>If you need any additional information or would like to discuss, please contact Jon Carr, lobbyist, NCAFCC at 919-270-2906; jcarr@jordanprice.com or Randy Jordan, CEO, NCAFCC at 610-247-3957; randy@ncafcc.org</p>
03/25/2020 11:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group		This is so inaccessible to people. Why weren't members given a training on WebEx beforehand? Why is there no moderator who is muting everyone and unmuting them as necessary? How is this transparent to the public?
03/25/2020 11:15 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Executive Director CAC SHERRY REINHARDT	<p>THE LINCOLN COUNTY COALITION AGAINST CHILD ABUSE & CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER IS A NON-PROFIT WITH 4 ESSENTIAL EMPLOYEES 2 FORENSIC INTERVIEWERS AND 2 VICTIMS ADVOCATES. WE CONTRACTS WITH 4 MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS AND 3 MEDICAL PROVIDERS TO PROVIDE SERVICES TO CHILDREN WHO HAVE BEEN SEXUALLY AND PHYSICALLY ABUSED AND PROVIDE SERVICES FOR THEIR AND NON-OFFENDING FAMILY MEMBERS . WE SERVED 225 CHILDREN IN LINCOLN COUNTY IN 2019, OUR BUDGET IS \$519,337.00 OF THAT 27.73% COMES FROM FUNDRAISING IN OUR COMMUNITY. WITHOUT THOSE FUNDS OUR COMMUNITY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER WILL NOT BE ABLE TO SURVIVE FINANCIALLY TO BE THE PRIMARY SOURCES OF RELIEF THROUGH A COORDINATION OF EFFORTS WHEN A CHILD HAS BEEN VICTIMIZED. WE WOULD NO LONGER BE ABLE TO RESPOND RAPIDLY AND EFFECTIVELY TO REPORTED CASES OF CHILD ABUSE. AT CURRENT ALL OUR FUNDRAISING EFFORTS ARE POSTPONED AND OR CANCELLED FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE FEDERAL BUDGET YEAR, THIS UNCERTAINTY FOR OUR AGENCY IS TOUGH FOR US AS WE CONTINUE TO WORK FOR PRECIOUS CHILDREN IN OUR COMMUNITY WHO ARE VICTIMS.</p>
03/25/2020 11:15 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Me. Robert Brinson	I understand the necessity to plan but now is way too early to make decisions on how to conduct the November election. Georgia has (or is making) the decision for mail-in balloting for their primary not the general. Please hold off decisions about the November general election until the end of May. If you do decide to go to all mail-in voting, voter requests should be made on-line (or by mail) and the postage for mailing of all ballot materials (to voters and back to BOE) should be state funded (not on the voter).

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/25/2020 11:17 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Edward Rapp	To help ensure the integrity of our elections, and therefore our democracy we must not allow mail-in voting.
03/25/2020 11:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Emanuela Prister	I reject any effort to harness the vote remotely. The vote is a sacred right of citizenship and allowing remote voting would allow for fraud and ballot harvesting. Coronavirus will pass and elections should be held after the danger from contagion subsides.
03/25/2020 11:27 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Christopher Dunn	I do NOT support mail in voting, voting by non-citizens or any removal of restrictions that can increase the likelihood of voter fraud.
03/25/2020 11:32 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Patricia Kleinmaier	There are too many problems already with people voting absentee or provisional , also there are too many people that have died or moved that are still showing up at addresses. Will you be purging the roles before attempting this? There are dead people just in my neighborhood that are still listed as active so would they get one? Who would fill it out? I don't think this is a good idea at all. The emergency will be over before Nov.
03/25/2020 11:39 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Jane Wagstaff	As an election official in Durham Co. for over a decade, I STRONGLY urge you to resist any alterations to our voting procedures especially "mail in " voting. Absentee ballot "harvesting" was a part of a scandal in one of our last elections. DO NOT INVITE THIS IN AGAIN. You must protect EVERY NORTH CAROLINA CITIZEN'S VOTE. That is YOUR JOB. Your job is NOT accommodation. It is to assure voter integrity.
03/25/2020 11:42 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Marilyn Frederick	Continuity of State Operations is Imperative-during a time of Crisis-The Covid19 meets that criteria!
03/25/2020 11:42 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Paralegal Jesus Morales-Rivera	Please do not allow all mail ballots. This is a highly unreliable system. Legislative bodies in this country reject remote voting because of the many concerns regarding security and fraud around mail ballots. Further, by election time we are most likely going to have the virus situation under better control, making such a drastic change unnecessary. Thank you.
03/25/2020 11:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sarah Wetherby	Please do not go to all-mail voting system. That system is too unreliable, and there is too much opportunity for voter fraud. We have too many inactive voters, due to death or moving to another jurisdiction and those people would receive a ballot which anyone could mail back in. This is a very bad path to start down. We are vehemently opposed.
03/25/2020 11:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mr Eric Edgerton	Mail in ballots, we already have that with absentee ballots. But to do this on a massive scale would be HUGE amount of work for the board of elections. The process for an absentee ballot is (1) request by the voter, (2) check to see if on the voter rolls (3) send ballot, (4) receive ballot, (5) check signature and enter info into data base.(no duplication)

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	Group		This is huge compared to the current process. I would urge you to keep the current systems. Early voting reduces the volume on election day. That's the way to go
03/25/2020 11:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Gina McNulty	Never let a good crisis go to waste, said Rahm Emanuel, right? Why did Cooper declare in the 1st place if it was not by majority? What is going on in RDU?! So many differing answers.
03/25/2020 11:48 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Consider suspending car inspection and emissions requirements for the duration of the public health emergency period, so individuals can renew their registration without leaving their home to comply with any such requirements.
03/25/2020 11:49 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Jeremy Sprinkle	<p>Lawmakers should immediately pass legislation to ensure that our state's Unemployment Insurance (UI) system will help workers and their families weather this crisis. I am asking you to take these immediate steps to assist workers and improve the system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - return to 26 maximum weeks of benefits - change the formula used to calculate benefits - increase the maximum weekly benefit amount and index it to wages - restore eligibility for unemployment caused by health reasons and family hardship <p>Thank you for your leadership during these troubled times.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jeremy Sprinkle Raleigh, NC</p>
03/25/2020 11:50 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Benjamin Inman	Better to postpone the next election than to change the mechanics of election in any fashion. I say this as a person very dissatisfied with the lay of the offices after the last election. More of the same for a while will not be as destructive as a new process that was not vetted and proven by our state population's previous use. You will make everyone distrustful, even if the election goes their way. You will make people think that change is more important than our population.
03/25/2020 11:52 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Molly Gill	<p>March 25, 2020</p> <p>Dear Rep. John Bell, Rep. David Lewis, and Rep. Darren Jackson:</p> <p>We commend House Speaker Tim Moore for establishing the House Select Committee on COVID-19, and write today to urge you and members of the Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections, and Public Safety) working group to consider the recommendations outlined below to protect incarcerated people in North Carolina from the coronavirus pandemic.</p> <p>As the number of people infected with COVID-19 and the death toll continue to rise across the country, and reports of infections begin to crop up in prisons and jails, it is vital for the working group to partner with the Department of Public Safety (DPS) and county jails to ensure every proactive measure is taken to (1) safely and quickly remove vulnerable</p>

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			<p>populations from prisons and jails, and (2) protect the safety and health of people who remain in custody, as well as the staff who work in the prisons and jails. In particular, we urge the working group to:</p> <p>I) Ensure the use and expansion of all available legal authority to expedite the release of elderly, immunocompromised, and seriously ill people from prisons and jails immediately.</p> <p>According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), adults 65 years old and older and people with underlying medical conditions are at a high risk of contracting the coronavirus and face serious health complications from the virus, including death. According to a 2006 study, North Carolina's number of prisoners over age 50 grew by 61 percent between 2001 and 2006 alone. Of the approximately 35,000 people in state prisons currently, more than 8,000 are over age 50, including more than 1,200 people over age 65. Elderly prisoners are also more likely to have multiple or serious health conditions like heart disease, diabetes, autoimmune disorders, or other conditions that, according to the CDC, lead to higher risk of complications or death from COVID-19.</p> <p>The CDC also advises that people keep a six-foot distance from each other in order to reduce the risk of contracting and spreading the virus. This is nearly impossible for people in North Carolina prisons and jails to practice, as they are housed tightly together, often in overcrowded facilities, and share a common sleeping space, cafeteria, restrooms, and showers. Most state prisons also lack sufficient medical personnel, hospital beds, and critical care equipment to cope with a widespread outbreak of the coronavirus among a vulnerable population. Without the ability to adhere to social distancing and receive sufficient health care on-site, it is important that those who are most at risk from COVID-19 are removed from prisons and jails immediately.</p> <p>Under North Carolina law, some people who are terminally ill, permanently and totally disabled, or geriatric (age 65 or older) can be released and returned home through medical release. Additionally, the Secretary of the DPS has authority to "extend the limits of confinement" for people who are permanently and totally disabled or terminally ill so they can receive medical care outside of prison. Unfortunately, North Carolina's medical release and extension of confinement programs have stringent requirements and a lengthy and bureaucratic review process, and such relief has been granted to only 13 people each year, on average.</p> <p>Now more than ever, it is important that the available medical release and medical furlough provisions are efficient and able to be used to their fullest extent to save as many lives as possible, conserve prison healthcare resources, and protect public health. We urge the working group to ensure that DPS is using and expediting current release processes for prisoners who are elderly or have underlying medical conditions, so that they can self-isolate in their own homes and avoid the inevitable outbreak in their prison facility. The working group should also draft and recommend legislation to streamline the medical release and extension of confinement programs and expand eligibility for those programs.</p> <p>II) Ensure the Department of Public Safety and county jails take appropriate precautions to mitigate the risk of a COVID-19 outbreak for people who aren't able to secure early</p>

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			<p>release.</p> <p>In addition to working for the swift removal of as many vulnerable people as possible from prisons and jails in the coming months, the working group should partner with DPS to ensure that every measure is taken to minimize the threat of COVID-19 to people who remain incarcerated, and also the correctional staff. These measures should adhere to the CDC's "Interim Guidance on Management of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in Correctional and Detention Facilities," and at the minimum include measures that would:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Require prisons and jails to provide adequate supplies of soap and alcohol-based hand sanitizer to everyone in the prison and ensure that washable surfaces are properly disinfected on a regular basis; 2) Require prisons and jails to screen staff regularly for COVID-19 symptoms, encouraging them to stay home if feeling sick, and providing enough paid sick leave for staff; 3) Increase DPS funding to hire additional staff to ameliorate staff shortages and minimize the use of overtime; 4) Require prisons and jails to keep families aware throughout this crisis of any outbreaks and steps the DPS is taking to mitigate the spread of the disease and secure proper treatment for those who become ill; 5) Ensure that prisoners and their families have access to free phone calls, emails (where available), and video communication (where available) in lieu of cancelled in-person visits, so that families may stay connected and apprised of their loved one's health and needs. <p>III) Create an emergency release provision as an additional mechanism for release of people who pose no risk to the public.</p> <p>This current pandemic has highlighted the cracks in many of our institutions, including the lack of legal authority for courts, Department of Public Safety officials, and the governor to swiftly release large numbers of vulnerable people from prisons and jails to save lives and protect public health during a contagious disease outbreak. We urge you to draft and recommend legislation that would permit the expedited release of prisoners during a public health emergency. We stand ready to provide support and research to assist you with this effort.</p> <p>Thank you for considering our views.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Molly Gill, Vice President of Policy, FAMM</p> <p>cc: members of the Continuity of State Operations working group</p>
03/25/2020 11:53 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Mrs. Harry Jenkins	All-mail voting will open up the opportunity for an abundant amount of fraud. The virus situation will be much improved by election time in November. States that use all-mail

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		voting have turned into hard left states (go figure)!
03/25/2020 11:55 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	John Rappl	I am against mail in voting . This type of voting would allow fraudulent voting and no way to track and ensure correct voting! I also believe we should be enforcing the voter id policy that was signed into law last year!!!!
03/25/2020 12:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Allison Powers	My concern is for changing election laws for a temporary situation. We have options for absentee balloting for high risk persons should we still have issues with virus concerns later. As we see every year, flu basically stops over the summer. There is no reason to think this flu would be any different. There are impressive drug trials going on and its likely this flu will be vanquished soon. As someone who has knocked a lot of doors, I can state unequivocally there are many erroneous voter registrations per address on rental units. People are not diligent about properly changing their voter registration if they move out of state and often do not. and they are the only ones allowed to change it, not the new owner. Beleive me, I've tried to old registration off and no affidavits were allowed. To go to a totally vote by mail scheme would make our elections invalid. It is not prudent to make changes in haste. Stick with what we have.
03/25/2020 12:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Andy Jackson	<p>Group members,</p> <p>As you are aware, the NC State Board of Elections is working on a draft of recommendations that "may include amending requirements for absentee by-mail voting." Considering how much we don't know about how coronavirus will progress over the next few months, it is too early to lay out many specific proposals for how to conduct the November elections. However, there are two things that can be considered now. First, the absentee ballot reforms passed last year in Senate Bill 683 should not be reversed.</p> <p>Those reforms were in response to the reported ballot harvesting by McCrae Dowless on behalf of Republican Mark Harris in the 2018 9th Congressional District race. Subsequent investigations revealed that ballot harvesting in the 9th District was much more extensive than originally alleged, reflecting a clear danger to the integrity of our elections. Backtracking on any of those reforms would invite more absentee ballot fraud. Second, the General Assembly should call on the State Board of Elections to expand the use of Multipartisan Assistance Teams (MATs).</p> <p>MATs are currently maintained by every county board of elections to help those in assisted living facilities request and submit absentee ballots. The role of MATs could be expanded to aiding any members of the general public who requests it. The General Assembly should also provide funds to help county boards of elections expanded MATs.</p> <p>Given the vulnerable populations that MATs often work with, members of those teams should be regularly tested for coronavirus. With the ongoing increase in test production, there should be ample tests available by late summer.</p> <p>During the regular legislative session, the General Assembly should also consider</p>

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			authorizing the State Board of Elections to print and mail absentee ballot request forms to all active registered voters in North Carolina for the general election if the number of coronavirus cases in the state has not started to decline by the end of June and providing funds for that purpose.
03/25/2020 12:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. John MacIlroy	Absolutely, positively no all mail in votes. I'm for very limited early voting, voter ID which is already law but sidelined by an activist judge. You can't have voter ID and mail in votes. Open door for extreme fraud.
03/25/2020 12:15 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Angela Limthong	Pls no "mail-in elections" We need election/voting integrity.
03/25/2020 12:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Diane Knudsen	We need help fast. \$1,200 from the federal government doesn't do anything. What about the self-employed people, what about small businesses. People need help with food, rent, mortgage payments. You all have been cashing in on the backs of the rest of us for too long and we will not be left here to suffer. Get the money from Richard Burr if you must but this is not acceptable!
03/25/2020 12:19 PM	Economic Support Working Group	REBECCA COLLINS	We need a UBI now to survive. Not a one time payment. Please don't let us poorer people die out here.
03/25/2020 12:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Please continue with all NC State Operations, especially our time-revered election process. We do NOT support the implementation of "all-mail" voting!!! This is not only a violation of our civil liberties, but invites a massive amount of voter fraud and corruption. Please preserve our right to vote "live" in our assigned precincts in any and all upcoming elections.
03/25/2020 12:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Revonda Morse	Americans need assistance during this emergency
03/25/2020 12:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Revonda Morse	Americans need assistance during this emergency
03/25/2020 12:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Erica Palmer Smith	<p>Dear Speaker Moore and Members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19:</p> <p>The state of emergency caused by the COVID-19 pandemic presents incredible challenges to our state, and to the health and economic well-being of all North Carolinians. We are grateful for the commitment you have shown to protecting all of us through your service on the House Select Committee on COVID-19.</p> <p>As you deliberate, we urge you to consider solutions to close the health insurance coverage gap as a critical element of your response to this crisis. It is especially important to consider short- and long-term priorities that will strengthen our healthcare systems and protect North Carolina residents. Closing the coverage gap would help us</p>

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			<p>overcome three of the key obstacles we face: slowing the spread of the virus, supporting our healthcare systems, and lessening the economic hardship many North Carolina families will now face.</p> <p>Most importantly, patients who are in the coverage gap may be deterred from seeking medical care in a timely manner, over fear of exorbitant costs. This increases not only their risk of health complications, but also the length of time they can transmit the virus to others prior to their own diagnosis. Many of our state's essential workers, including our farmers, grocery cashiers and volunteer first responders, are uninsured. Ensuring they seek the care they need is not only critical to a functioning economy, but also to slowing the spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>Equally important, our hospitals and healthcare systems are striving to provide the best possible care to COVID-19 patients, but this also means providing a great deal of uncompensated care. Closing the gap will enable them to seek reimbursements to cover more of those expenses, helping them stay financially solvent. During this time of emergency, we must have a robust healthcare system.</p> <p>Finally, healthcare expenses are the leading cause of bankruptcy in the United States. Recent articles have indicated that the cost of self-pay for diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19 can be over \$30,000. Increasing access to affordable health insurance is critical for ensuring the economic stability of our state.</p> <p>Care4Carolina urges you to find a solution to close the health insurance coverage gap, as a part of the overall state response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We stand ready to work with you in any way that we can, and we wish you the greatest success in leading our state through this difficult time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Erica Palmer Smith, Director The Care4Carolina Coalition</p> <p>About Care4Carolina: Care4Carolina is a statewide coalition of health providers, business and community leaders, civic groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and medical and professional associations. Care4Carolina seeks to strengthen the economic and social wellbeing of our state by increasing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all North Carolinians.</p> <p>Members include: AARP Addiction Professionals of North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association Carolina Loggers Association Chatham County Health Alliance</p>

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		Cone Health	
		Cone Health Foundation	
		Disability Rights NC	
		Duke Health System	
		Duke Lifepoint Healthcare	
		Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation	
		Healthcare for All NC	
		Insight Human Services	
		Justice-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force	
		League of Women Voters of North Carolina	
		Leukemia & Lymphoma Society	
		March of Dimes North Carolina	
		Methodist Federation for Social Action NC	
		MomsRising	
		National Alliance on Mental Illness, North Carolina (NAMI NC)	
		National Association of Social Workers North Carolina (NASW-NC)	
		NC Academy of Family Physicians	
		NC Aids Action Network	
		NC Alliance of YMCAs	
		NC Association of Local Health Directors	
		NC Center for Nonprofits	
		NC Child	
		NC Citizens for Public Health	
		NC Coalition on Aging	
		NC Community Health Center Association	
		NC Early Education Coalition	
		NC Justice Center	
		NC MedAssist	
		NC Pediatric Society	
		NC Psychiatric Association	
		NC Psychological Association	
		NC Public Health Association	
		NC Rural Center	
		North Carolina Alliance for Health	
		North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics	
		North Carolina Healthcare Association (NCHA)	
		North Carolina Medical Society	
		Novant Health, Inc.	
		OIC Family Medical Center	
		Old North State Medical Foundation	
		Stroke Advisory Council	
		The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care	
		The National Multiple Sclerosis Society	
		The North Carolina Dietetic Association	
		Wayne County Strong	
		Wayne Memorial Hospital	
		Western Carolina Medical Society	

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			Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc. Winer Family Foundation
03/25/2020 12:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sandra Thompson	Please begin preparations now to allow all general election voting to be done by mail with no excuse required. We cannot be caught off guard if this virus is still affecting even portions of the state which would impact in person voting. Don't put poll workers or the voting public at risk. We must be ready to hold free and fair elections no matter the circumstances.
03/25/2020 12:41 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Julie Lofurno	I would like to discourage any decision to require all-mail voting in this year's elections.
03/25/2020 12:41 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Jonathan Kotch	The Health Care Working Group should have Medicaid Expansion at the top of its list of priorities. The very idea that there are as many as 1/2 a million North Carolinians (and probably more every day as unemployment rolls grow) during this public health emergency is anathema. The fact that so many North Carolinians in the "coverage gap" cannot access health care for coronavirus testing and COVID-19 treatment puts all of the rest of us at risk. How long will such neighbors put off getting tested, or even getting treated, because they can't afford it. Every infected individual will infect another 2 to 3 people, spreading the virus exponentially. There should be no barriers, especially financial barriers, between an infected person and health care. The Feds will pay 90% of the cost. That is a terrific deal for our state. Please recommend expanding Medicaid, without a work requirement (since so many eager workers are getting laid off through no fault of their own) now. Thank you.
03/25/2020 12:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Deborah Schafer	why has the state (gov) not issued a shelter in place? people will die because of this delay! step up and lead!!!
03/25/2020 12:51 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Nancy Oakley	No one is cleaning the voter rolls. I have a neighbor who died 7 years ago and he is still on the records.
03/25/2020 12:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Charles Nanney	Record need to be cleared of people who are dead and changed addresses. Who will check for legal citizenship and notarized. Too much possibly if cheating.
03/25/2020 12:58 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Lindsay Mahaffey	Please provide calendar flexibility for schools. Please waive testing requirements and teacher observation requirements. Please extend deadlines on LEAs spending for the academic year. Please ensure staff gets paid despite schools being closed.
03/25/2020 12:58 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Lindsay Mahaffey	Please provide calendar flexibility for schools. Please waive testing requirements and teacher observation requirements. Please extend deadlines on LEAs spending for the academic year. Please ensure staff gets paid despite schools being closed.
03/25/2020 12:58 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Lindsay Mahaffey	Please provide calendar flexibility for schools. Please waive testing requirements and teacher observation requirements. Please extend deadlines on LEAs spending for the

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03/25/2020 01:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jill Melton	academic year. Please ensure staff gets paid despite schools being closed. Keep elections in person. The integrity of elections are bad enough without voter ID without opening it up to further fraud by using mail-in voting.
03/25/2020 01:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Cynthia McGee	No ID or residence verified with mail-in ballots. Already have too many people on rolls-more than possible for our state. Democrats made sure people bused in for early voting so no suppression but if done thru mail anyone can fill out a ballot for you. No way.
03/25/2020 01:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jane Bilello	All-mail in ballots weakens election safeguards. Voting by mail is the single worst form of election possible. It moves the entire election beyond the oversight of election officials and into places where the most vulnerable can be exploited by political operatives. Worse, it sends ballots out to people who no longer are alive or no longer live at the registration address on record. Not every new tenant will toss the ballot into the garbage. Not every relative will resist the temptation to vote in the name of a deceased family member. This plan eliminates key safeguards to clean elections. References: https://www.dailysignal.com/2020/03/25/avenues-to-voter-fraud-have-no-place-in-coronavirus-bill/?fbclid=IwAR2S4kGi7IzA_B5eVw7h_i6RqV0SuuCN8mC2YhYsV-Gl3dfxjcYTxxnm7Lc This is another scheme by the Leftist democrats to perpetrate voter fraud amid a health crisis. We're watching. This is a non-starter. Get back to the business of helping folks through the COVID-19 and abandon the marxist strategy 'Don't let a crisis go to waste.' Elections will have consequences in November. Do the right thing and help our businesses and our workers through this so we rebound to a strong vibrant economy.
03/25/2020 02:03 PM	Health Care Working Group	Rhonda Morris	Kids First Child Advocacy Center will be suffering a loss of income on several fronts due to the COVID-19 emergency. With its Child First (tm) program, the introduction of new client cases has been suspended, costing the agency at least \$60,000 (and up to \$100,000) over the next three months. For fundraising events that had been planned and had to be cancelled due to COVID-19, a potential \$10,000 has been lost.
03/25/2020 02:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Juanita Pleasants	No mail in voting
03/25/2020 02:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Robin Swaim	I heard that you were planning on doing elections by mail. I urge please not to do this. The country is so divided now and I have seen that deep into our own state. People won't accept the outcome (no matter which side wins), and I fear civil unrest. Please don't do this. Thank you for your time
03/25/2020 02:30 PM	Health Care Working Group	Montserrat Ferragut	As an independent contractor working as a Craniosacral Therapist I am being directly affected by the lockdown and no being able to access my office and offer my services to

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03/25/2020 02:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jennifer Derrick	<p>clients.</p> <p>I don't know if this is the place to put this, but I think you need to look at suspending vehicle inspections for a while. (I asked this question of DMV and they said that only the legislature could order a suspension of vehicle inspections, thus why I'm writing to you.) This is especially true since we are all being asked not to go out except for necessary reasons. County stay at home orders are in place, more are coming, and it looks like a statewide order is coming soon.</p> <p>A vehicle inspection is not necessary for life, and having to get one puts both citizens and mechanics at risk. As a citizen, I am at risk if I have to wait in a crowded waiting room and touch the doors, payment terminal, etc. in the shop. I'm also at risk if the mechanic is infected and touched my steering wheel, gear shift, etc., and/or coughs or sneezes in my car while performing the inspection. Similarly, the mechanic is at risk if I am infected and have spread the virus throughout my car, which he/she must now get inside and touch.</p> <p>This seems like unnecessary risk. Yes, going to a mechanic might be a risk I would have to take if my car were broken and I needed it to get to work or medical care. That's a risk that some might have to take. But an inspection is not a necessary risk. It's a foolish risk, and one that does not jibe with telling everyone to stay home, avoid unnecessary contact, and only go out for necessary reasons.</p> <p>You can argue that the vulnerable just have someone else take their car in for the inspection, but not all vulnerable people have someone who can help them in such a way. Plus, new data continues to come out that show we are all more vulnerable to this virus than was previously thought. Inspections cannot be done virtually and so should be suspended.</p> <p>Please, for the safety of all, consider suspending these inspections until the current crisis has passed.</p>
03/25/2020 02:50 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Driver License Ann Butts	During CoVid, why not allow online driver license renewals for those without any infractions? Especially for those in at-risk categories. It might reduce stress on DMV employers.
03/25/2020 02:55 PM	Health Care Working Group	Patti Mason	Then you really don't want debate on the subject but to jam something through. Taking comments is good but then you own the disposition and the rest of us can't see/hear and possibly change our minds or contribute or expand. I get the seriousness and the distancing, but between a core group separated at the house and technology, group meetings could be held - yes more difficult but possible and inclusive.