

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/25/2020 03:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Melvin Pempsell	There is no need for mail in ballots. This will only create opportunities for election fraud. Vote in person is the only way to have a nearly honest election.
03/25/2020 03:20 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Emanuela Prister	(I am resubmitting my comments because I am not sure that it was submitted under the correct category). I oppose any voting other than in person voting, other than in the most extreme forms of physical disability. I think widespread use of voting other than in person voting will lead to fraud!
03/25/2020 03:37 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Thomas Anderson	The Governor's blanket order closing many small businesses is punitive and makes no provision for individual businesses to demonstrate that they can operate safely by making changes in normal operating procedures. We respectfully request that the Legislature, as our only defense from this crushing hand of government, require that individual businesses be given the opportunity to operate if they can do so and not increase the risk of their customers contracting or spreading the virus.
03/25/2020 03:45 PM	Health Care Working Group	Victor Packard	Reminder of the Save Act. Numerous states (of the ones who have not already changed legislation over the last 10 years) have in recent days allowed NPs to practice to his or her full scope without the limitations of supervision that hampers others access to healthcare. I ask that our state, as others have done, to move forward in removing this barrier.
03/25/2020 04:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Catherine deTar Dillon	Absolutely No Mail-in Voting. There is nothing in place to ensure a fair and secure election process. It would move the process beyond the oversight of election officials and would impact all of us including the most vulnerable amongst us.
03/25/2020 04:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mark Peterson	I just heard that the NCGA is considering state wide mail in voting. With all due respect, I hope you all are not that stupid. We're talking about opening the door to ballot harvesting, aren't we? We're talking about providing another method of vote fraud and election tampering made easy, aren't we? Please, please, please, secure our elections from those who will subvert the system with every opportunity you give them. Support and maintain election integrity with paper ballots and tamper proof off line tabulation machines ONLY (excluding absentee and provisional ballots). North Carolinians are already disappointed with the outcome of the Photo ID Amendment we voted for. In an effort to avoid lawsuits to block your legislation, you weakened the effectiveness of the Voter Photo ID law by allowing hundreds of different ID cards that can easily be forged and where identity and citizenship cannot be verified. How did that work out? It got blocked in court anyway, didn't it? Don't disappoint us again. Do the right thing.
03/25/2020 04:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Frank Racz	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1 Absentee ballots are not "secret ballots." 2 Absentee ballots are still counted by the same privately owned voting machines that have been in the news, including Diebold, ES&S, Sequoia and all the rest.

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			<p>3 In many cases, like King County, WA, the Post Office no longer controls the incoming mail, instead a private company sorts incoming absentee ballots into precincts before giving them back to county for counting. This breaks down any chain of custody rules that may have been in place, and privatizes another link in the chain.</p> <p>4 From beginning to end, the whole system of Absentee Ballots is insecure, as ballots are no longer strictly controlled by the County and citizen poll workers in the individual Precincts.</p> <p>5 The cost of running an all mail voting system can actually be greater than a poll based voting system.</p> <p>6 The Signature Verification Process is error prone and routinely disenfranchises thousands of voters when it is used. Ballots rejected for having invalid signatures are treated as "Guilty before proven innocent."</p> <p>7 Voter Suppression, Vote Buying, Vote Stuffing become far easier in this system.</p> <p>8 Accidental double voting can and does happen.</p> <p>9 Some studies show a short term spike, but long term decline in voter participation, in 100% absentee systems. Claims that Vote-By Mail will increase turnout have no real evidence supporting this assertion.</p> <p>10 The post office loses mail or just misplaces it for years, the county loses ballots, and people lose their own ballots.</p> <p>11 The Absentee System greatly alters the Precinct System.</p> <p>12 Vote-By Mail systems vastly increase the time it takes to count elections.</p> <p>13 Vote-By Mail systems eliminate "Election Day" and replace it with "Election Month," thereby greatly increasing the costs campaigns must spend on GOTV (Get-Out the Vote) efforts.</p> <p>14 Many, many people have gone to jail already for rigging elections using absentees, throughout the country and around the world. This is occurring in the here and now, not some distant past. These are not "isolated incidents."</p> <p>15 Vote-By Mail systems alter the time-table of the election cycle. The change to Vote-By Mail means many voters will vote before all the information has been presented by candidates, civic institutions are forced then to either adjust their calendars, or as is currently the case, they don't change their forum dates, rather fewer voters have a chance to see candidates in person at these forums.</p>
03/25/2020 04:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Mr Ryan Jacobs	There is no way absolutely no way we should have mail in Ballots...the people of this state already went to the polls for voter ID and you guys even managed to botch that...so what

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		in the world makes you think we would be ok with mail in Ballots or Ballot harvesting
03/25/2020 04:43 PM	Health Care Working Group	Paul Packard	<p>Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments regarding the health and welfare of North Carolinians. As a native North Carolinian, Registered Nurse for the past 30 years and a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA or APRN) currently in the thick of battle to save lives, it is imperative that you remove barriers to Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) practice. This is an all hands on deck scenario that requires utilizing healthcare practitioners to the top of their license. Decades of research have demonstrated the safety and efficacy of APRN practice. CRNAs have practiced safely for over 150 years. Numerous states have already removed these barriers to APRN practice. Since the Covid-19 Pandemic numerous other Governors have signed executive orders removing physician supervision requirements during the crisis.</p> <p>North Carolina legislators have the option to pass the SAVE act (H 185) now. This bill has tremendous bipartisan support. It is time to put politics aside and move this bill to Governor Cooper's desk.</p> <p>Please know that as you continue your work, I will continue my work on the front lines helping the most vulnerable to the fullest extent of my currently defined practice, but this may not be to the fullest extent of my education and training. Thank you for your time and thank you for continuing your work for the benefit of North Carolina as a whole. Please contact me should you require more information.</p>
03/25/2020 04:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Gina McNulty	<p>MAIL IN VOTING FOR NOV? ARE YOU OUT OF YOUR DAMN MINDS? DURING A FREAKING PANDEMIC - THIS IS WHAT YOU ARE FOCUSED ON! JESUS! YOU know what I want, EVERY DAMN ONE OF YOU TO RESIGN - TODAY! After our VOTER ID WAS voted for, VETOED, OVER RULED, THEN YOU USE AN OBAMA CIRCUIT JUDGE ON NEW YEARS EVE TO ISSUE AN INJUNCTION? ARE YOU OUR OF YOUR MINDS? VOTER ID, IN PERSON, PAPER BALLOTS! I AM SO SICK OF YOU DEMOCRATS AND RINOS! YOU ARE ABSOLUTELY CORRUPTED! AND WE ALL KNOW IT!</p>
03/25/2020 04:47 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Karl Lambert	Please do not pass voting by mail
03/25/2020 05:08 PM	Education Working Group	Dr Magaretha Herman	<p>I'm very concerned that some of our counties have not yet begun to feed children who relied on school breakfast and lunch programs, and other counties are relying on local volunteer efforts to feed some, but not all of those who qualify. A state-wide effort is required ASAP--if one is underway, we aren't aware of it. I live in an urban county--we're managing with financial help, but some counties have neither the money nor the manpower. Currituck County is in great need, for example. Many counties, including mine, are also shutting down Meals on Wheels programs because many of their volunteer drivers are elderly and are now keeping themselves isolated. Elderly shut-ins will starve.</p>
03/25/2020 05:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Jason James	I don't think it would be a good idea to do a all mail in vote. It definitely invites fraud.
03/25/2020 05:30 PM	Health Care Working	CRNA, NSPM-C Michael	Michael P. Brown, CRNA, NSPM-C

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	Group	Brown	<p>Paul Pellini, CRNA, NSPM-C Jose Estrada, CRNA, NSPM-C William Wade, CRNA East Coast Pain Specialists, PLLC 344 Tulls Creek Road Moyock, NC 27958 704-277-3345 contact@eastcoastpain.org</p> <p>House Select Committee on COVID-19 North Carolina General Assembly Legislative Building 16 West Jones St. Raleigh, NC 27601</p> <p>March 03, 2020</p> <p>Dear House Select Committee on COVID-19:</p> <p>On behalf of East Coast Pain Specialists, PLLC, residing at 344 Tulls Creek Road in Moyock, North Carolina, we are requesting an immediate action to remove unnecessary supervision of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists (CRNAs) and other Advanced Practice Registered Nurses (APRNs) in North Carolina.</p> <p>East Coast Pain Specialists, PLLC is an all CRNA group with each member having fellowship-training and board- certification in Non-Surgical Pain Management (NSPM-C). CRNAs are properly positioned to provide exceptional care to North Carolinians during the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>However, unnecessary and burdensome supervisory requirements continue to exist which restrict CRNAs from practicing to the fullest degree allowable according to the state scope of practice. The outdated practice of requiring a supervising physician needs to be removed for CRNAs to practice to the fullest extent of their licensure. This unnecessary and burdensome regulation can lead to delays in patients receiving the right care in the right setting as APRNs are forced to locate a physician to perform a service well within their own scope of practice.</p> <p>APRNs are playing an increasingly vital role in our nation's health care delivery system by practicing on their own or in collaboration with physicians. In many states, APRNs provide care in areas where access to physicians is limited; particularly in medically-underserved urban and remote rural areas. The research on this issue is clear – APRNs consistently deliver high-quality care with positive patient outcomes when they are able to work to the full extent of their education and training.</p> <p>With the expanding pandemic occurring across the United States with COVID-19, several states have recently identified the skills of APRNs, including CRNAs, and removed the red-tape. These included recent full practice authority and opt-out from Tennessee, New York, Arizona, and Maine in the past week in anticipation of need for utilizing all providers to their fullest capabilities. It is time to remove this barrier in North Carolina so APRNs, including CRNAs, can provide the care they're educated, qualified, and able to do.</p> <p>We are asking for your immediate support and assistance by issuing an opt-out order that will remove the unnecessary supervision burden placed upon CRNAs and other advanced practice registered nurses in North Carolina.</p> <p>Thank you for your continued support of Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetists and</p>

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			Advanced Practice Registered Nurses in North Carolina. We would be happy to discuss this matter further and can be contacted at 704-277-3345. Patient care is of utmost importance. We intend to continue providing safe, excellent, quality care to our citizens of North Carolina.
			Sincerely, Michael Brown, CRNA, NSPM-C
03/25/2020 05:36 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Nancy Lewis	<p>As a small business owner of a childcare center for the past 16 years, since the onset of the COVID-19 virus my business has seen a drastic reduction in enrollment. Once the MCS system closed, parents dropped out immediately. Then quickly restaurants, bars, etc. began to close. More families left. Many parents began to request refunds on tuition that was already allocated to payroll, rent etc.!! Now my 'rainy day fund" was depleted. Daycares do NOT operate on large margins. I have not found anyone with answers or even direct help as to how we can keep our doors open with such reduced income. State or Federal funds are not yet available. No one knows when they will be and how you will access these allusive funds. Do not even get me started on SBA Loans! They are supposed to be available NOW!</p> <p>As far as I am concerned I would like to see where all this money goes. I applied and got a call from a lender that was not part of the COVID-19 program. What is that all about? What a waste of my time. Then I heard if you apply for an SBA loan it adversely affects your CREDIT SCORE. So now in the future it gets harder to get a loan, mortgage, purchase a car etc. CRAZY!</p> <p>How do we pay immediate bills such as rent, water, electric, insurance, PAYROLL etc.!! Many daycares have already closed. Will they ever re-open?</p> <p>This is just my immediate need. What about other small business in Moore County? Will there be a County that visitors and new families will want to come to? I hope and pray that the answer is "Yes". Right now their is NO LIGHT AT THE END OF THIS VERY DARK TUNNEL!</p> <p>Please Help us!!!</p>
03/25/2020 05:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Hollis Kerfoot	Please do all you can to support SMALL businesses and their employees -- tax breaks, pay assistance, easy access to unemployment -- during this crisis. Large companies can take care of themselves since they've got more of an economic cushion. At the very least, they should be willing to suffer some deprivation when others are facing more losses.
03/25/2020 05:55 PM	Education Working Group	2020/2021 School Year Laura Stanley	I would like to know how grade promotion, retention, will be decided, and what will be done regarding Grade level standards for next year as it pertains to Advance Classes, Standard Classes, and children that have IEP's, 504'S or receive EC class benfits, and How the High School College Credit Courses will be handled.
03/25/2020 06:24 PM	Continuity of State	Stay At Home & Other	Dear NC General Assembly,

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Meas Demetra Gates	<p>Please act NOW to implement a statewide, mandatory, stay at home order.</p> <p>As someone who lived abroad in South Korea for nearly 30 years, and experienced first hand effective government measures to slow down and stop several major health pandemics (SARS, MERS, H1N1 and now Covid19), I implore you to act in the TRUE best interest of your state's citizens.</p> <p>Mecklenburg County has a record number of infected cases and will, as you know, begin an order to stay at home tomorrow.</p> <p>And yet here just 20 minutes away in Gaston County, no such order exists. People still commute back and forth to work daily between the two counties, potentially risking all of our lives.</p> <p>I realise that the sort of resources a nation like South Korea has at its disposal (widespread testing, PPE, use of masks by all citizens, thorough disinfecting of many public spaces, etc.) are not currently available here in the USA, let alone our state of North Carolina.</p> <p>However, there are many more things we can do in the meantime, while the state and the nation work to bring our system and infrastructure up to speed.</p> <p>These are some of the things other countries have effectively used, that I would like to suggest you consider implementing in NC:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Texting EXACT contact tracing information of confirmed cases to all cell phone users (without including personal data/details of those infected). People automatically limit their own movement when they learn that, for example, Case#54 travelled to such and such places in the last 12-48 hours. -Mandatory use of PPE by those on the now defacto front lines of this pandemic, such as grocery/big box stores employees, fast food workers, gas station employees, etc. -Closing ALL "offline shopping" to the public. Require all purchases to be made via phone or online, with drive up and pick-up ONLY. Yes, fast-food chains and restaurants are already mandated to do this. But grocery/big box stores must be included in this mandate immediately before they too become breeding grounds for further spread. <p>Again, I hope you will please act NOW to impose a statewide, mandatory, stay at home order, and consider some of these other measures to protect all of our citizens.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Demetra E. Gates</p>

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			Gastonia, NC (704) 772-6218 demetraegates@gmail.com
03/25/2020 06:25 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Financial assistance William Mcdonald	The federal government has failed us. I am on social security disability and it will be over a month before seeing relief that may be decreased because I don't have to file taxes. I barely make it and now it is worst. My car got repoed. I am behind on bills. We need significant financial assistance not to businesses but to individuals that helped build those reserves like me before I was disabled and making six figures. Now I do t even see \$25,000 yearly. Why not send financial assistance through EBT cards. I can't get it any right now because I am penalized for not having children to get financial help. Can't file for unemployment due to my part time jobs because I can't claim my self employment that just started recently nor can I claim for an employer that never paid me before I was having to leave for non payment of wages. Prior to last year I didn't have to file taxes and can't file taxes right now as I have to go to their office to get my PIN number which is closed so again I may get no help from the federal government so we need someone to consider individuals not just businesses and to look at those of us that may not get help because we don't have children or didn't have to file taxes in past. Please help. More than happy to speak by phone. My number is +13364207160. Why not incentivize banks or companies to provide loans to people that have low income and bad credit. Can't get a new car with no down payment and my credit score is bad due to disability. Title loan was necessary due to a house fire and they took my car because late four days on a payment due to the virus. Can't get help through legal aid just the runaround. Where are the people I voted for. Not that it should matter but I am republican.
03/25/2020 07:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Melinda Pace	We need to know who is voting in our elections! We do not need to make fraud any easier by mail!
03/25/2020 07:50 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Ramona Timm	I strongly urge the NCGA not to go to only mail-in ballots...proper hygiene can be maintained...we all have enough hand sanitizer and we all have enough days to vote any of the extended hours we already have and to keep a 6 ft distance from one another! Mail ins just open the door for mistakes and worse...like taking the oversight of the voting process out of the legal jurisdiction of our voting process! People move and do not keep their registration up to date; people pass away and that can pose another opportunity for some to manipulate the results.. We are a country of law and order...this can only lead to voter fraud. Absentee voting has already been found to have fraud...so we dare not go there!
03/25/2020 08:29 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Hillary Rich	Hello, my vehicle registration renewal is due at the end of this month and I still need to get my state inspection done and then go to a DMV to pay and turn in my vanity plate for a regular plate. Due to my recent job loss because of COVID-19, I can't afford the vanity plate anymore or the fees being charged to renew my registration online, which is why I need to go to the office in person. Heck, I really can't even afford my registration and vehicle property taxes at all right now, let alone the cost of the inspection. Anyway, I'm sick and self quarantining and the governor is about to issue a stay at home order. Additionally, my local license plate DMV location has closed until further notice. All of

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			<p>these obstacles are making it impossible for me to get my registration renewed by next Tuesday. I live alone and have no one to take care of this for me. And even if I did, I really don't like the idea of a stranger being in my car right now touching all the hard surfaces to do the inspection. I respectfully ask the N.C. General Assembly to consider extending vehicle registration renewal deadlines and/or waive the \$15-\$25 late fees will due to the Covid-19 crisis.</p> <p>Thank you very much for your consideration. Stay safe everyone!</p>
03/25/2020 10:24 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Kevin Shinault	<p>This will be a direct violation of one vote for every one citizen. Do not allow voting by any other method except in person. 56% of North Carolinians voted for a photo ID on a ballot. The people spoke but one Obama appointed judge thwarted the constitution and the will of the people. It is a known fact that democrats have cheated all over this country. They use the race card saying that blacks and Hispanics are too stupid or backwards to have a picture taken of themselves. Democrats and the NAACP and Eric Holder say it because they know they have minions like reverend so and so and others who will do their dirty work for them.</p>
03/25/2020 10:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Lillian Creger	<p>Leave,elections the,way they r. As a voter, I want to go to vote,at the,polls. No paper voting.</p>
03/26/2020 07:36 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Janet Farmer	<p>As we look forward to the end of the school year and how to handle continuity of instruction, it is very important to understand that each school system needs to be given flexibility, within a framework, on how to handle completion of instruction. For instance, my daughter's high school in Onslow County, has only missed 1 instructional day due to the pandemic closure. As a matter of course, all student already had district issued laptops and they began online, continuing instruction after only one missed day. My understanding is that the online, continuing instruction is taking place for 3rd-12th grades. This is not review material, but a continuation of coursework. They are being graded on this online work.</p> <p>Conversely, I know that some school systems are only able to provide review and reinforcement of material that had already been taught. My personal concern is that the school year may be ended prematurely at a state level, ending the continuing instruction that my daughter is receiving.</p> <p>There are going to be so very many challenges as we move ahead. Solutions will need to be varied depending on the level of instruction student were able to receive this year. For high school students & middle schools with high school credit courses, it may require final exams, to be certain students have learned enough of the material to be successful in the next level of coursework. For elementary & middle schools, it may mean rolling instructions from one grade to the next. I know how many folks feel about testing, but we are probably going to need assessments, not for school grading, but to understand where the students are after this disruption. There are so many unique challenges for high school seniors and those decisions will require input from our UNC College system and the NC Community College system.</p>

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			<p>We have a wealth of resources in our state education system and I encourage legislators to reach out to our teachers, school administrators, PTAs & the NCAE. Perhaps it would be helpful for every school system in the state to create their own working group, made up from representatives from the schools, parents, PTA's, etc., to draft plans for their system to share with this working group.</p> <p>Thank you for providing this opportunity for input.</p> <p>Sincerely, Jan Farmer</p>
03/26/2020 07:39 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Reginald Nichols	<p>Thank you for your hard work during this time. I will make this short as I know the input you are receiving must be intense. 1 idea to consider based on 2 reasons: IDEA: Passage of the Save Act to allow Nurse Practitioners to practice within their scope of training REASON: 1) I work within the 7 far western counties of North Carolina and see daily the underserved populations. Passage of the Save Act would allow Nurse Practitioners to begin providing in-home Primary Care (and now telemedicine with the 1135 waiver) to those in rural setting who have great need. Within a week of passage (time to complete and submit credentialing paperwork), additional medical providers could be ready to meet needs. 2) With schools shut down during this time, Child Advocacy Centers throughout the nation will be overwhelmed with increased child abuse cases. It is very difficult for Children Advocacy Centers to find medical Providers to complete medicals, not because of desire, but because Nurse Practitioners who have interest must find a supervising physician with whom to enter into a collaborator agreement. Physicians, unless they are employed by the Child Advocacy Center, are given strict recommendations by their insurance companies to not enter into these agreements due to the increased potential of litigation based on the subject matter. Because of this, no Child Advocacy Center west of Asheville has a medical provider to complete the children forensic/medical exams. In the west/central portion of the state, 1 Nurse Practitioner must cover the needs for 7 counties. With the passage of The Save Act, immediate help would be available to help meet the needs of the increased child abuse cases that absolutely will occur during this time. Thanks for this consideration. Reginald S Nichols, MAC, MSN, FNP-C</p>
03/26/2020 07:55 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Richard Burdett	<p>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. Right now, the candidates are not trying to meet any voters. We need the chance to meet these candidates in-person and not filtered strictly through polished TV ads. Using VBM would be too much like voting on who makes the best commercials. We need time to meet the candidates as we have in the past.</p>
03/26/2020 08:11 AM	Health Care Working Group	Pregnant Women Charo Tomlin	<p>Is there any possibility of establishing standards for employers of pregnant women in the workplace since they are at higher risk...without losing their healthcare or job?</p>
03/26/2020 08:42 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Peg Stephenson	<p>Our agency has suffered numerous economic losses due to the Covid 19 crisis. We have had to close our two resale shops which results in a \$10,000 loss per month. Our two fundraisers have bee postponed and likely cancelled which results in a loss of \$27,500.</p>

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	Public Safety) Working Group		We have also been losing \$2500 in donations for the month and expect this to continue throughout this crisis. Meanwhile we continue to provide quality services to all our clients. This is a significant loss for our agency.
03/26/2020 09:19 AM	Health Care Working Group	Marni Peters	I am a massage therapist by trade. Which means I will be without income for the next two months (hopefully not longer). Considering this is my sole source of income please consider specific financial assistance for those of us that are not financially supported by a larger corporation.
03/26/2020 09:25 AM	Health Care Working Group	Melea Rose-Waters	<p>At Prevent Child Abuse NC, we urge you to consider the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in the COVID-19 crisis: children. Parenting itself is a challenge. And, circumstances, undoubtedly, determine just how difficult it can be as a parent – even without the added stress of uncertainty, social isolation, job loss or reduction in wages, or inadequate food and shelter.</p> <p>Reports of child abuse and neglect have increased 29 percent over the past 19 years in NC, and it costs the state \$2 billion a year in downstream consequences¹. A November 2019 Vital Signs Report² from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US are correlated to Adverse Childhood Experiences like child abuse and neglect, including heart disease, diabetes and depression. It is imperative that our response to the COVID-19 crisis recognizes that the response requires not only addressing immediate needs, but to strategically address the long-term consequences by investing upstream NOW in prevention.</p> <p>Recommendations that prevent child abuse and neglect from the CDC include³: strengthen economic supports for families, enhancing parenting skills to promote healthy child development, and providing quality care and education early in life. The Center for the Study of Social Policy uses the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework⁴ and we encourage you to use this framework in your policy deliberations. These Protective Factors are: Children's Social and Emotional Competence, Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Child Development, Social Connections, Parental Resilience and Concrete Supports in Times of Need. As families are becoming more isolated due to the pandemic, we fear that there will be a spike in unreported and preventable neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. The people who encounter families and report many suspected cases of abuse and neglect – educators and child care providers – no longer have regular face to face contact with families.</p> <p>We request that as you make decisions about how our state will move forward, that you support essential services to families that will aid in reducing the stress and anxiety associated with this pandemic, and ensure the safety and well-being of our state's children.</p> <p>Parenting education classes such as Incredible Years, Triple P, and Circle of Parents must continue as a lifeline for families, and the organizations that are providing these services need resources in order to continue through telehealth, including investments to purchase software platforms that are HIPAA compliant. Some parents who receive these services need access to equipment and broadband services. Home visiting programs offered in NC have strong evidence to prevent abuse and neglect. These programs need the same type</p>

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			<p>of support in order to continue to provide much needed consultation, education, physical, and mental well-checks for families.</p> <p>Concrete supports will also help reduce stress – a risk factor for abuse – during these difficult times. NC must expand upon the paid family and medical leave and unemployment insurance benefits covered in the most recent Federal relief packages to strategically fill gaps in coverage for families not covered by the federal legislation. This could include, but not be limited to, employers with over 500 employees, the self-employed and those who work 100% on sales commissions. This will provide financial relief and ease the worries that families have in how they will take care of their family. Assuring all families can access the medical care they need should they develop COVID-19 symptoms is also essential. A study has shown that every \$1 increase in the minimum wage can lead to a reduction in the number of reports of neglect by almost 10%⁵. Offering North Carolinians additional cash assistance that increases the amount offered through the federal legislation is an investment in prevention, in our economy, and in our future.</p> <p>Another critical concrete support is child care for emergency and essential service workers, as well as financial support for child care providers who have had to close or have lost business. Quality child care is both a key strategy cited by the CDC to prevent child maltreatment and it is critical to the infrastructure of our economy. We support investments in quality, increased access and supports for the early childhood education workforce.</p> <p>North Carolinians are resilient, and we will come through this even stronger. However, as we prepare for children to return to school, we must invest in our schools becoming a trauma informed place of learning and support. Educators are a lifeline for many students and provide a critical social connection for families. Educators must have the knowledge and skills to appropriately respond to children who have experienced trauma during the COVID-19 crisis, just as they do after a hurricane or other natural disaster. This is secondary prevention and will prevent intergenerational trauma.</p> <p>We appreciate your leadership during these difficult times. We urge you to think strategically and upstream while addressing immediate needs. We must make prevention a priority.</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse NC</p> <p>Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina (PCANC) is the only statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to preventing child abuse and neglect. Prevent Child Abuse of North Carolina ensures that prevention is a priority for North Carolina and all communities have the knowledge, support and resources to prevent child abuse and neglect. PCANC is a chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America. For more information contact Melea Rose-Waters, Policy Director at mrosewaters@preventchildabusenc.org . Learn more about Prevent Child Abuse NC at www.PreventChildAbuseNC.org, our statewide Board and our www.ConnectionsMatterNC.org campaign. April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month. You can #BeAConnection, especially you, especially now.</p>

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			<p>References:</p> <p>https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/n-c-invests-little-to-prevent-child-abuse-and-ultimately-pays-a-higher-price/</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf</p> <p>https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/</p> <p>https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/n-c-invests-little-to-prevent-child-abuse-and-ultimately-pays-a-higher-price/</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/vitalsigns/aces/index.html</p> <p>https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/CAN-Prevention-Technical-Package.pdf</p> <p>https://cssp.org/our-work/projects/protective-factors-framework/</p> <p>https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0190740916303139</p>
03/26/2020 09:26 AM	Education Working Group	Stephanie Day	<p>School districts that are able to offer at-home learning should have the ability to provide pass/fail credit to high school students. While not every district is able to offer online learning during this time, those that are should not be penalized in the name of "fairness" as some states have done. It is unfair for students at-risk of dropping out to be forced to return to school for another 2-3 months to finish work they are doing at home. Pregnant and parenting teens may not be able to return. Seniors and students with plans to move during the summer will not be able to return.</p> <p>NC already has a credit by demonstrated mastery option for high school credits. This should be put into place for all districts without the need to take the state exam for courses in which the student is already enrolled. Students should be able to complete the portfolio requirements, earn their pass/fail credit, and move on to the next level. Even students who do not have internet access can work on parts of the portfolio offline. Districts can mail the portfolio requirements out to students or, if they are not on lockdown, have a drive-through station for students and parents to pick them up. Many students were already half-way through with courses, AP students will still take their AP exams online when possible, and NC needs to provide a pathway for all high school students to move forward, especially the seniors.</p>
03/26/2020 09:26 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Melea Rose-Waters	<p>At Prevent Child Abuse NC, we urge you to consider the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in the COVID-19 crisis: children. Parenting itself is a challenge. And, circumstances, undoubtedly, determine just how difficult it can be as a parent – even without the added stress of uncertainty, social isolation, job loss or reduction in wages, or inadequate food and shelter.</p> <p>Reports of child abuse and neglect have increased 29 percent over the past 19 years in NC, and it costs the state \$2 billion a year in downstream consequences¹. A November 2019 Vital Signs Report² from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US are correlated to Adverse Childhood Experiences like child abuse and neglect, including heart disease, diabetes and depression. It is imperative that our response to the COVID-19 crisis recognizes that the response requires not only addressing immediate needs, but to strategically address the long-term consequences by investing upstream NOW in prevention.</p> <p>Recommendations that prevent child abuse and neglect from the CDC include³:</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>strengthen economic supports for families, enhancing parenting skills to promote healthy child development, and providing quality care and education early in life. The Center for the Study of Social Policy uses the Strengthening Families Protective Factors Framework⁴ and we encourage you to use this framework in your policy deliberations. These Protective Factors are: Children's Social and Emotional Competence, Knowledge of Parenting Skills and Child Development, Social Connections, Parental Resilience and Concrete Supports in Times of Need. As families are becoming more isolated due to the pandemic, we fear that there will be a spike in unreported and preventable neglect, physical abuse, and sexual abuse. The people who encounter families and report many suspected cases of abuse and neglect – educators and child care providers – no longer have regular face to face contact with families.</p> <p>We request that as you make decisions about how our state will move forward, that you support essential services to families that will aid in reducing the stress and anxiety associated with this pandemic, and ensure the safety and well-being of our state's children.</p> <p>Parenting education classes such as Incredible Years, Triple P, and Circle of Parents must continue as a lifeline for families, and the organizations that are providing these services need resources in order to continue through telehealth, including investments to purchase software platforms that are HIPAA compliant. Some parents who receive these services need access to equipment and broadband services. Home visiting programs offered in NC have strong evidence to prevent abuse and neglect. These programs need the same type of support in order to continue to provide much needed consultation, education, physical, and mental well-checks for families.</p> <p>Concrete supports will also help reduce stress – a risk factor for abuse – during these difficult times. NC must expand upon the paid family and medical leave and unemployment insurance benefits covered in the most recent Federal relief packages to strategically fill gaps in coverage for families not covered by the federal legislation. This could include, but not be limited to, employers with over 500 employees, the self-employed and those who work 100% on sales commissions. This will provide financial relief and ease the worries that families have in how they will take care of their family. Assuring all families can access the medical care they need should they develop COVID-19 symptoms is also essential. A study has shown that every \$1 increase in the minimum wage can lead to a reduction in the number of reports of neglect by almost 10%⁵. Offering North Carolinians additional cash assistance that increases the amount offered through the federal legislation is an investment in prevention, in our economy, and in our future.</p> <p>Another critical concrete support is child care for emergency and essential service workers, as well as financial support for child care providers who have had to close or have lost business. Quality child care is both a key strategy cited by the CDC to prevent child maltreatment and it is critical to the infrastructure of our economy. We support investments in quality, increased access and supports for the early childhood education workforce.</p> <p>North Carolinians are resilient, and we will come through this even stronger. However, as</p>

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03/26/2020 09:26 AM	Education Working Group	Melea Rose-Waters	<p>At Prevent Child Abuse NC, we urge you to consider the needs of one of the most vulnerable populations in the COVID-19 crisis: children. Parenting itself is a challenge. And, circumstances, undoubtedly, determine just how difficult it can be as a parent – even without the added stress of uncertainty, social isolation, job loss or reduction in wages, or inadequate food and shelter.</p> <p>Reports of child abuse and neglect have increased 29 percent over the past 19 years in NC, and it costs the state \$2 billion a year in downstream consequences¹. A November 2019 Vital Signs Report² from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) found that 5 of the top 10 leading causes of death in the US are correlated to Adverse Childhood Experiences like child abuse and neglect, including heart disease, diabetes and</p>

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03/26/2020 09:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Sue Butcher	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. NO to mail in voting.
03/26/2020 09:49 AM	Continuity of State	Ms. Barbara Beard	The remote idea of ballot harvesting (didn't someone from NC get in trouble for that

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		recently) by pushing absentee voting is insane. We'll be out of this madness by November, so why is it even being considered? As an election official, we know that a large part of voter fraud has been discovered with absentee ballots anyway, so why make it easy? The legislature needs to squelch this idea ASAP!
03/26/2020 10:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sue Lilly	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 10:11 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Kim Briggs	I demand you vote no for mail in ballots for November election. We are coming off a controversial 2016 election, we do not need another cycle of this. No way to verify as our Governor did away with voter ID!
03/26/2020 10:13 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Wendy Frank	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 10:14 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Caroline McMillan	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. Oppose mail in ballots. Require ID
03/26/2020 10:16 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Charles Baldwin	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. This "consideration" is dead on arrival. The answer is no. We will vote in person as always thank you.
03/26/2020 10:17 AM	Education Working Group	Homeschooling testing Kristen Brooking	homeschooling families are still being affected by this virus. Not only are we at risk of getting the virus but our children are too, which could cause further delaying with testing. As homeschooling parents we do have the right to be able to administer the test using CAT, however if we were to purchase these test it is a time frame before we have to turn it in. What if us or children get sick during that time and the test cannot be administered? it is unfair to say that school children in public and private schools do not have to take in the great testing but homeschooling children still have to. This needs to be clarified to include homeschooling children as well. We are all at risk.
03/26/2020 10:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Andy and Suzanne Miller	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. 100% vote by mail is an invitation to fraud.
03/26/2020 10:24 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mr Larry Smith	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.

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	Group		
03/26/2020 10:25 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Voting Rick Mende	Voting is a citizen's civic duty, and voting should be protected against criminal activity - including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 10:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr David Judy	We CANNOT allow the chain of custody of our vote ballots to be broken by the by the fraud encouraging method called "ballot harvesting" !!!
03/26/2020 10:29 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Bonnie Stakeman	No to voting by mail! We already have enough problems with voter fraud. This will only allow it to run rampant. I hope our officials are smart enough to figure out a better way for a fair election.
03/26/2020 10:29 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Sharon Doyle	No to mail in voting...
03/26/2020 10:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	EVP, Civitas Institute Brian Balfour	<p>Reviewing the last economic crisis reveals that state government needs to take more measures now to avoid a fiscal panic in the coming months and next fiscal year. As the 2008 financial crisis devastated the economy, North Carolina's FY 2008-09 state budget faced a \$3.2 billion shortfall. Governors Mike Easley and Bev Perdue utilized a combination of budget cuts, hiring freezes and dipped into state reserves (including the lottery fund) to close the gap.</p> <p>The following year's budget was staring at a \$4.6 billion shortfall between projected revenues and expenditures. A combination of further budget cuts, "temporary" tax hikes and federal stimulus funds enabled the state to close that gap.</p> <p>In short, the \$2.7 billion the state has set aside thus far strengthens the state's position, but more will likely need to be done.</p> <p>There is no guarantee that the federal government will bailout state governments this time around, and imposing tax increases during a period of recession was a huge mistake that must not be repeated.</p> <p>Following are several recommendations for budget and tax policy responses the state should follow in order to address the coronavirus crisis:</p> <p>No new or temporary taxes. Whatever legislators do, they should NOT enact any so-called temporary taxes. Doing so will punish people already struggling and prolong the downturn and recovery. History has shown that "temporary" taxes prove to be very difficult to eliminate.</p> <p>Hold off on taxpayer rebate checks. Some legislators are urging the state to supplement the state's easing of unemployment benefit requirements with a cash payment to all citizens. Approving a measure like the Taxpayer Refund Act would provide a payment of \$125 to \$250 to most North Carolinians, at a cost of \$668 million to the General Fund. The</p>

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			<p>state should instead opt to maintain these funds in reserves to help balance the budget and avoid costly new taxes. Federal legislation is already poised to send checks of up to \$3,400 to a family of four. Once the economic fallout subsides, legislators can re-assess the feasibility of state rebate checks.</p> <p>Eliminate unfilled positions. Eliminate unfilled positions vacant since July 1. The state has approximately 1,700 unfilled positions that have been vacant since the beginning of this fiscal year, with a combined salary of roughly \$103 million in total lapsed salary for the entire year, which does not include the cost of benefits. These positions should be permanently eliminated and the unspent salary and benefit funds set aside into the rainy day fund.</p> <p>Save surplus funds. Set aside 100 percent of any surplus funds for the current fiscal year into reserves. According to the most recent Office of State Controller General Fund monthly report, "The Fiscal Research Division estimates that General Fund revenue is \$289.6 million above the revenue target for the fiscal year." To the extent that any surplus revenue remains by the end of the fiscal year, these funds should be set aside to help fill any budget gaps in the coming fiscal year.</p> <p>Freeze hiring. State government should not include any additional positions in the coming fiscal year budget, nor hire any additional workers for the remainder of this fiscal year.</p> <p>Implement budget cuts. Reduce non-health state agency spending by 5 percent for the remainder of the current fiscal year. This measure would largely replicate Executive Order 21 issued by Gov. Bev Purdue in August 2009.</p> <p>Reduce capital spending. Halt expenditures for capital projects for which state funds have been appropriated but not placed under state contract. Transfer any unused capital project funds to the General Fund. These provisions were included in Purdue's Executive Order 6 issued in January 2009.</p>
03/26/2020 10:37 AM	Economic Support Working Group	SusieWW Collins	We, the people will go out in public to vote. Do not take our voting rights away. This virus is Political, trying yo take through Presidency away from Trump.
03/26/2020 10:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote by mail Russ Austin	No voting by mail.
03/26/2020 10:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Bonnie Fiore	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 10:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Ronald Long	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. 100% vote by mail is an invitation to fraud.
03/26/2020 10:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Joy Johnson	I do not think see should be able to vote by mail. Too easy to cheat.

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
03/26/2020 10:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jacqueline Orr	Do not support massive vote by mail...aka ballot harvesting...schemes. We, the citizens of NC voted for voter ID. The will of the people being subverted by activist judiciary against the Constitution of this state. Vote by mail is how Democrats flip entire states with fraud...CA being a prime example.
03/26/2020 10:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sr. Victor Hefner	Voting is our Civic duty.
03/26/2020 10:46 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Theresa Gore	No mail in ballots Worse idea EVER
03/26/2020 10:47 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Katie LeMaire	I feel there is too big of a risk of tampering and general dishonesty in mailing paper ballots.
03/26/2020 10:55 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	We need to keep our families and our communities and our healthcare professionals safe--PLEASE close the coverage gap so that 600,000+ North Carolinians can access quality health care and so our hospitals and medical providers are not overwhelmed! Closing the coverage gap will dramatically help us stop the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina!
03/26/2020 10:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Diana Sprague	I oppose mail in ballots for elections of any government officials as I feel it could be too easy to be manipulated.
03/26/2020 10:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Gregory Ernandes	NO to vote by mail for the 2020 election. This will allow ballot harvesting, one of the easiest ways imaginable to throw an election. Our votes must be protected against criminal activity, including manipulation by ballot harvesting and vote fraud.
03/26/2020 10:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs George W Lee	Vote by mail is an open invitation to fraud. Please do not allow that to happen to our government!
03/26/2020 10:59 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Samantha Nadj	Mail in voting only increases voter fraud. I want this state to vote in person to keep our elections fair.
03/26/2020 10:59 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ms Lorrie Jacaruso	Our votes should be protected no mail in ballots

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
03/26/2020 11:00 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Hazel Forrest	Vote at election sites.
03/26/2020 11:00 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	BARBARA GROVES	Do not allow voting by mail. It is our duty to vote. We have to protect our votes from voter fraud. The only excusable reason is our military out of the state and our elderly who can't get out.
03/26/2020 11:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ballet Harvesting Katrina Ramirez	I am OPPOSED to the idea of Ballet Harvesting or/and any idea of mass vote by mail ideas. This would expose our elections to fraud and misrepresentation. I understand that this idea is floating around in our congressional halls, plea see vote NO. We must keep in place the integrity of our system. 1 ballot, one vote, one person, with an identifying ID. Thank you.
03/26/2020 11:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	DeAna Sweeney	I am opposed to mail in voting as it enables ballot harvesting. Ballot harvesting has been used in other states where voting irregularities were investigated.
03/26/2020 11:04 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Nicole Zimmer	Please keep voting the way it is and not switch to mail ballots. We all remember box after box of ballots that were found in storage and dumpsters after the last election. Please dont make it easier to commit election fraud.
03/26/2020 11:16 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Glenn Silver	I am writing as a member of the Islamic Association of Raleigh (IAR). IAR is a faith-based group that is very active in the community. We are a member of One Wake (https://www.onewake.org); operate a community food bank; and currently are distributing food parcels and other essential items to our neighbors who need it most. We respectfully request this Committee to consider funding that will allow us, and other nonprofits like us, to meet our operating and program costs for helping ensure our seniors, who are among the most vulnerable, and others, such as children who no longer get meals at schools and families whose adults have lost their jobs due to COVID-19 business closures, have their basic human needs met. Thank you.
03/26/2020 11:17 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Christopher Zimmer	I am highly opposed to this. Please don't make it easier to commit fraud.
03/26/2020 11:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mrs Rebekah Filer	PLEASE order a state wide lock down immediately. The longer we delay, the longer this all lasts. Get on with it so we can get over it and get back to work!

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	Group		
03/26/2020 11:23 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Miss Gail Childers	I am opposed to mail in ballots for the 2020 elections.
03/26/2020 11:25 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Pat Curry	Voting is our civic duty. The process should be protected from fraud & criminal activity. Please, please, please DO NOT allow voting by mail. It would open up to so much fraud.
03/26/2020 11:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Walter Kroush	Voting is our civic duty! Our votes should be protected from criminal activity
03/26/2020 11:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keith Boyd	Please maintain the integrity of our voting/electoral process. DO NOT reduce this next election cycle to mail in only, as this opens Pandora's box even wider to voter fraud. Voting is a privilege and as such it's incumbent upon the voter to extend some level of effort to exercise that privilege. North Carolinian's are already disappointed with the outcome of the Photo ID Amendment we voted for, being overturned by a single activist judge.
03/26/2020 11:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sudie Gower	Ballot harvesting is a way to cheat and is a way to destroy our election process.....and we are worried about the Russians??? The Democrats want to destroy this country to gain power no matter the consequences!!!
03/26/2020 11:36 AM	Health Care Working Group	Susan Moody	Do NOT add extraneous issues to any health care legislation in NC. Voting IS NOT part of COVID crisis. Keep an bills clean.
03/26/2020 11:37 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Cara Vitadamo	What about PPE for nursing homes, outpatient clinics, home health, psychiatric facilities, hospice?
03/26/2020 11:38 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Moody	Do NOT allow more voter fraud in NC. Do NOT include any voter issues with any State Of Emergency COVID legislation.
03/26/2020 11:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Tammy Loftis	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should Ben protected against criminal activity , including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 11:48 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Wendy Bostic	Our elections are our most important civic duty. Our votes must be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and vote fraud. Please DO NOT allow The

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		North Carolina General Assembly to allow voting by mail for the 2020 election. This will allow ballot harvesting, one of the easiest ways imaginable to throw an election. Most vulnerable are local elections. Our elections need more security, not less. We need to protect against invalid ballots and illegal voting. Mailing in ballots would make cheating even more rampant. November is far enough away that people will surely be able to get out and vote. Again, do not allow voting by mail.
03/26/2020 11:49 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Sandi Packard	I am gravely concerned re: COVID-19 and the lack of access to care for North Carolina residents during this Pandemic. APRN's are being restricted to practice d/t an antiquated "Supposed Physician Supervision" clause in NC. The SAVE ACT has been languishing about for more years than I care to remember. BECAUSE this bill was reintroduced as The Save Act (same content) 2019. There are/were 61 bipartisan sponsors of this bill. We are in a healthcare crisis world wide. We do not need an Executive Order granting full practice authority to APRN's. We need NC Legislators to get off their duffs and pass this bill. This bill does NOT change the scope of practice. APRN's are already trained to provide care as directed in the SAVE ACT. The opposition is coming from physicians who do not want to lose the money they receive from APRN's for "supervision". I have been a nurse for 50 years. Yes, I still practice as a RN. I see the sort of "supervision" provided. As many years as I have been seeing a FNP as my PCP, not one single time has the physician come into the room to "supervise" either well or sick visits. Same thing at the hospital. And the documentations is the same for all. "I have reviewed and concur...blah, blah, blah." I am really angry that healthcare has become all about the dollar. Throughout. Please review and act on the bill ASAP. You will be saving lives. You will be a part of the solution. Please do not continue to be a part of the problem. Perhaps you should call upon Rep Gail Adcock to review the bill with you. She certainly knows the NC BON rules. And the very restrictive supposedly "physician supervision". Thank you. Sandi Packard, RN, BSN
03/26/2020 12:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Joey Marie	Our right to vote is our most important civic duty and has been a fraudulent activity for some. Our votes must be protected against criminal activity including ballot manipulations and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 12:10 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Carl Moore	Keep the vote as is, do not allow even the appearance of any voter fraud. It's required to vote. Non citizens don't have the right to vote.
03/26/2020 12:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	2020 Elections Mikeal Murray	I have read that there is a movement to have mail in ballots for the 2020 elections in November. This can not be allowed due to the ease in which ballots can be altered, "lost", or discarded in order to sway the outcome. As citizens of this country, we have a right to fair and secure elections and I strongly disagree with the easy-out resolution of mail in voting. All that we have heard from the last several years is election tampering, and if this idea is brought to fruition it will open the door to an unfair and fraudulent election. This can not be the way forward.
03/26/2020 12:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Harold Long	This is our country we vote you all in Governor and all. If we vote an item in and it passes then there is no reason for a dispute. Whether Governor or Judges like it. We the people are the ones that determine the law. Whether Democrat,Republican, etc etc. It is not right to the people to change laws for the good of the opposite to help in future elections. That is not American values.If we the people voted for voter ID and it passed it should be that way. I disagree with the Governor and his Judges on voter ID.

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03/26/2020 12:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Penny Shepherd	I oppose voting by mail as this could, and likely would, lead to ballot manipulation and voter fraud!!! Since we have 8 months-- I do not know why this agenda is being pushed at this point in time unless it is in preparation for a campaign of voter manipulation!
03/26/2020 12:34 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Beverly Crumpler	I don't think having home votes should work. That's like showing no ID when voting. It has nothing to do with being a Democrat or Republican, I feel the same either way.
03/26/2020 12:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Orbie Bevil	Under NO circumstances should vote by mail or ballot harvesting be allowed. NC citizens made it OVERWHELMINGLY clear we wanted voter ID to protect our votes and to have you use this as an excuse to go in the completely opposite extreme is UNACCEPTABLE.
03/26/2020 12:56 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Evelyn Bulluck	Will seniors receive the \$1200 from the stimulus package that just passed the Senate.
03/26/2020 01:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mike Baker	No voting by mail and Id shown at voting polls is what North Carolina voted on and it should be honored.
03/26/2020 01:14 PM	Education Working Group		Will students and staff have to make the missed days up? Teachers have been working from home during these days. If they are made up will teachers get paid for those days since we are still meeting our days in our contract.
			Will all staff , including hourly employees, get paid during this time?
03/26/2020 01:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Barbara Lewandowski	Please do NOT allow Vote By Mail. I am fully against this. No one will trust the outcome of an election that is processed through vote by mail! Thank you~
03/26/2020 01:17 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Barry Collins	On behalf of the Onslow County School System, please consider the items listed below as priority area recommendations as we work together in response to the ongoing COVID-19 emergency. 1) Emergency Leave – Allow all employees in leave earning status to receive an emergency leave day or prorated equivalent for each day scheduled to work according to the LEA's school calendar for days beginning March 16 through the duration of North Carolina's state of emergency. Other employees regularly scheduled for less than 20 hours per week would also receive an equivalent amount of Emergency leave. Emergency leave days will be added to the sick leave balance of these employees. Each LEA can apply these Emergency leave days as appropriate to ensure each employee's pay is made whole. This approach would eliminate unemployment cost and provide LEA flexibility. 2) Calendar Flexibility – Allow remote learning days to count as regular student calendar days. Allow the restrictions on begin and end dates for traditional school calendars to be waived for SY 2019-20 and SY 2020-21.

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			<p>3) Funding Flexibility – Remove legislative restrictions regarding transferability of state allotments between accounts and allow LEA's greater flexibility in the use of state allotments. Allow LEA's to carry over any unused state allotments into the next fiscal year. These carry over funds should be available for the LEA to use as needed to address additional learning opportunities and any other needs.</p> <p>4) Technology Funds – Additional funding to meet the needs of online instruction including electronic devices, mobile hot spots or other connectivity, online instructional content, infrastructure and support personnel. Provide full funding for the School Business Systems Modernization project so LEA's can maintain ERP software systems that allow business operations to be conducted more remotely to pay employees and vendors.</p> <p>I welcome further discussions regarding these important matters.</p> <p>Regards, Barry Collins, Ed.D.</p>
03/26/2020 01:31 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Michele Rivest	<p>Child Care Emergency Economic Support Package</p> <p>Emergency Funding is needed to support child care programs now, during, and after the Coronavirus crisis. Early childhood education programs need additional financial support now, during, and after the COVID-19 crisis. Governors, state leaders, and health care systems have made it clear that child care is an essential service for the thousands of children and families they serve and are particularly crucial during this emergency public health and economic crisis. Yet, funding is needed now to support and sustain the child care industry during this crisis. North Carolina should designate the child care sector, serving children ages 0-12 in licensed child care infants/toddlers, preschool, and after school centers and family child care homes, as an essential service that is foundational to our state's economy.</p> <p>We call on Governor Cooper and the NC General Assembly to enact a \$125 million emergency economic support package to support and sustain the child care industry now, during, and after the Coronavirus crisis passes. As first steps to stabilize this system that is essential to the state's response to COVID-19, these emergency funding measures should be built upon as the full scope of the economic harms ripple through our state and impact child care providers, children, and families.</p> <p>Why is Emergency Funding Needed for Child Care Programs?</p> <p>Right now, as businesses and schools are being told to close their doors to limit the spread of this deadly virus, workers deemed "essential" are still relying on child care to be able to show up to work and keep our country running. Many child care facilities are being asked to remain open, with a fraction of the tuition income they normally bring in, in order to provide care in this time of uncertainty. As an industry, the child care sector was already operating on shoestring margins, and providers only get paid when children are in attendance. In North Carolina, the child care industry is already underfunded, as it relies on parent fees, along with some government support via federal Child Care Subsidies, Head Start and NC Pre-K contracts. Child care teachers and staff are the lifeblood of child care programs and account for two-thirds of the cost for operating all child care programs.</p>

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			<p>However, child care teachers and staff are currently underpaid--averaging \$10 per hour--often lack health care benefits or paid sick leave, rarely receive paid family leave, regularly work multiple low-wage jobs, and often live in poverty.</p> <p>Extended closures over the next several weeks or months will put a substantial percentage of child care programs out of business permanently, exacerbating the widespread child care deserts that exist today.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of March 25, 2020, the NC Department of Health and Human Services reported that of the 4,500 paid private child care centers in North Carolina 55% have closed. • Data from a survey by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) indicated that one third of North Carolina child care centers and homes will not survive closing for more than two weeks, and another third do not know if they would be able to reopen after a closure without financial support. <p>If these child care small businesses are to keep their doors open, continue supporting the state's essential workforce throughout this crisis, and be around to care for our nation's children when parents return to work, the child care sector needs immediate and substantial assistance from the state and federal government. Without it, the child care industry will collapse, along with the well-being of a now recognized essential group of workers in our communities and the pathway towards long-term progress on our shared goals for healthy development and high-quality education for our state's youngest children.</p> <p>Three key emergency funding measures are urgently needed now:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First, make sure that child care programs who are choosing to remain open during the crisis have the financial, programmatic, and health care support necessary to do so and that the children attending their programs – particularly children of first responders, health care providers, and other essential personnel – are receiving priority child care assistance. • Second, ensure child care providers who are closed will continue to receive funding that will allow them to pay staff - when existing federal or state programs fall short or exclude them - and cover fixed costs, through business interruption grants and low-interest or forgivable loans. • Third, put in place policies that will sustain the child care industry today by providing financial assistance to child care as a critically needed small business through all available emergency or Coronavirus financial aid recovery programs and position the system to deliver affordable, accessible child care to young children and their families in the long-term. <p>Support for the Existing Child Care Industry:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Funding: Establish an Emergency Child Care Fund and ensure that any emergency federal or state funds include designation for child care programs as a distinct category and provide access for funding to address immediate needs such as emergency staffing, lost parent and/or child care subsidy fees, fixed operating costs, costs associated with cleaning and sanitizing facilities, and special preparedness training and support to staff. • Direct Grants: Make direct grants available to licensed child care providers (including home-based, center-based, non-profit, and for-profit) to help cover ongoing fixed costs (rents, utilities etc.), salaries and benefits for early childhood teachers and staff, the cost

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			<p>of providing paid sick and family leave, and the cost of lost business.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small Business Loans: Create a new category for child care programs and/or prioritize any new Small Business Administration Disaster Grants and ensure that any grants would include eligibility for licensed child care providers (including home-based, center-based, non-profit, and for-profit). Provide zero-interest or low-interest loans with access to capital to allow child care programs to cover the costs upfront to stay in business or start up again, with delayed schedules for paying the loan back until the program becomes reestablished. Any state level program designed to deliver small business loans should be forgivable if the business retains payroll levels and remains operational. • Child Care Subsidy: The current child care subsidy market rate system should not be used as the basis for reimbursement for child care programs designated as emergency child care sites because it is not adequate or equitable across age groups, counties or star rating. The state should establish a standard rate that is 25%-50% above the state market rate average or their county's own market rate for all child care programs designated as emergency child care sites. • Create a plan and special fund to establish emergency child care centers for essential workers in licensed child care programs and public schools operating child care programs. Child care for children ages 0 -12 should be handled in already-operating licensed child care programs and not allowed to operate as emergency or temporary sites. <p>Support the Early Childhood Workforce:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pay time and half or hazard pay to all child care staff serving essential workforce employees because of the increased risks to their own families' health. Create a new emergency fund for the early childhood workforce to access if they have lost their jobs, are awaiting unemployment, and find themselves with emergency expenses such as rent or mortgage payments. Ensure that the child care workforce have access to health care insurance, paid family and medical leave, and pandemic and state unemployment insurance during the crisis. <p>Submitted by: Michele Rivest, Policy Director, NC Early Education Coalition</p>
03/26/2020 01:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ruby Barlow	No vote by mail
03/26/2020 02:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Leroy Ortiz	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.
03/26/2020 02:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Joy Lockley	"Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud." ~~ Mark Peterson

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03/26/2020 02:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ywan Mason	"Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud."
03/26/2020 02:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Sherry Mayberry	Voting is my right and my civic duty. I want my vote protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.