

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/27/2020 03:02 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Robert Luebke	<p>Legislators:</p> <p>Coronavirus is upending our North Carolina public schools. On March 23, Gov. Roy Cooper extended the closure of all public schools in North Carolina through May 15 via executive order. That decision raises new challenges and questions: How will children learn? How will the recession impact the schools? Can the public schools integrate distance learning? Will teachers and other staff be paid when schools are closed?</p> <p>These are complicated questions, but not without answers. There are steps that can be taken— both short-term and long-term — to mitigate the impact of coronavirus on the public schools and improve education for all children in North Carolina. Let's review some short-term steps lawmakers could take to provide relief during this crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide local districts more flexibility. Lawmakers should give schools flexibility regarding how they provide 185 days of instruction within a nine-month calendar. In addition, districts need flexibility to deal with the impacts of changing the ways education is delivered and a reduction in revenues from an expected recession. Because of school closures, districts should be able to save costs on professional development, substitutes and transportation. The legislature should incentivize districts that take pro-active cost saving measures like protecting reserves, freezing hiring, re-opening contracts, reducing recurring costs and controlling benefit costs.</li> <li>• Maximize choice. Not all districts have access to the same resources or online capabilities. To minimize those inequities, lawmakers should consider taking a percentage of per pupil spending and providing parents with an ESA that they can use to purchase curriculum, books, tutoring or other educational resources to assist with home learning. In addition, several changes to home school law can ease the burden on families who now find themselves homeschooling in difficult circumstances. These include: waiving the requirement to have a nine-month schedule, waiving the requirement for disease immunizations and expanding the definition of a home school to include children of no more than four families or households whose parents determine and deliver the academic instruction.</li> <li>• Continue serving meals to needy students. Public schools do not have a legal option to provide meals when school isn't in session. However, considering the unprecedented circumstances we find ourselves in, school districts that have the resources to do so should continue to serve children eligible for the free or reduced-price lunch program through the end of the academic year. Minimal state dollars are involved. However, such examples not only highlight the central role schools play in the life of various communities but also how schools can partner with local community groups or charitable organizations to serve children in need.</li> <li>• Resolve Rural Broadband and Connectivity Issues. Lawmakers should resist the temptation to allow municipalities or private/public partnerships to provide such infrastructure. They haven't worked, plus companies should not compete with government. How do we improve the current situation? Lawmakers should consider</li> </ul>

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			<p>subsidies to districts to purchase hot spots other needed devices and for connectivity, especially for those items not covered by the E-rate. In addition, lawmakers can incentivize rural broadband development by streamlining the permitting process and providing tax breaks for companies that complete projects on specified timelines. Finally, the removal of regulatory obstacles can also work to spur needed investment and encourage cheaper technology alternatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand Online learning. While some districts have online learning, capabilities are spotty and unevenly delivered. The North Carolina Virtual Public School (NCVPS) has provided online learning for over 540,000 students since 2007. Currently, NCVPS is supporting students from districts that closed due to coronavirus; however, the budget and availability of teachers imposes limitations on NCVPS's ability to respond to the current school closure. Lawmakers should consider increasing funding to NCVPS to handle the influx of online students and to also begin a program within NCVPS to help teachers develop online instruction. In addition, lawmakers may wish to provide funds in the form of an Education Savings Account where teachers could use the money for professional development courses that aid online class development and virtual teaching methods.</li> <li>Meet the needs of special needs students. School closures present significant challenges to traditional students and even more so to special needs students, who comprise approximately 12 percent of the student population. To help meet these expanded needs, we suggest lawmakers develop an emergency ESA program for special needs students, which could be administered within the existing special needs ESA grant program which allows parents to use funds to pay for tuition, therapies and other educational items for their special needs child.</li> <li>Empower local districts to make decisions on educator pay. During the school closure, public schools are directed to provide instruction. To the extent that teachers and other staff are performing or trying to perform their responsibilities, they should be paid; through the end of the year if necessary. Schools already include the funding in their budgets. Regarding hourly employees, if local districts can employ services to meet changing needs they should be paid. Districts need the flexibility to hire and move teachers and staff to better manage this emergency situation. Schools may extend into the summer months to cover required material. If they do, additional funding may be found in the rainy-day fund and unreserved cash. School closures by districts should also be able to generate savings and districts should be incentivized to do so.</li> </ul>
03/27/2020 03:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Brian Tomlinson	We desperately need specific website URLs posted. Start a share group with the financial resources to make it more efficient for the online application process for small business owners. Also, create posts with social media managers and page managers to schedule posts for individual aid packages from the stimulus.
03/27/2020 03:28 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Sonia Hines	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud.

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03/27/2020 03:29 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Pamela Frome	We need to have easy access to mail-in voting in November. We have no idea what the impact of COVID-19 will be then. Without mail-in voting many people (the elderly, immunocompromised, those with heart disease or diabetes, etc.) will be disenfranchised based on their fear of catching the virus. We will not have a vaccine or a cure by then. There is very little risk of voter fraud. It has been shown historically that is it not a problem. It is more important to not force people to chose between voting and their health.
03/27/2020 03:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Emily Silverman	We need mail-in voting. Let's stay safe - and let our elections proceed - with mail-in voting. Thank you.
03/27/2020 06:36 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Nellie Greer	NO TO VOTE BY MAIL.....Voting is a civic duty....our ballots need to be protected against voter fraud!
03/27/2020 06:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karla Ayers	No voting by mail!! We have enough fraud as it is especially since the will of the people for voter ID was overrun by politicians. Hold elections as we usually do, in person, preferably with voter ID!
03/27/2020 07:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dana King	"Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud." I believe this virus will go away soon and we do not need to change our election method and I will be paying close attention and I do not support voter fraud
03/27/2020 07:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Brian Haney	Want to say that voting by mail is an incredible idea and must be put into place soon.
03/27/2020 07:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mail In Voting Melissa Cordell	"I am writing from Lincoln County to support mail in voting for the 2020 General Election. The current pandemic is creating a lot of uncertainty for the future, but one thing that should remain intact is our democracy. I firmly believe it would be an act of voter suppression to not take this measure.
03/27/2020 08:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Gerald Meyer	Elections must be done by mail in ballots with relaxation of the requirements for 2 witnesses or a notary public. These requirements are not necessary. Other states, Ohio for example, have had mail in absentee ballots with no such requirements for many years with no problems. Applications could also be made easier by having applications completed and mailed to voters for signature. The only safe ways to conduct elections during a pandemic will be via Mail Ballots. Lets do activities which facilitate voting in any way possible.
03/27/2020 08:06 PM	Continuity of State	Mail in voting Al Gallo	My son lives in Oregon. He's told me how easy mail in voting is. He says so many people

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		participate because the state has made it easy. Why do we make it so difficult to vote in NC? My son and I are both American citizens - why does he get to vote by mail , and I do not? Am I less valuable because I live in NC? Do I have to risk dying just to vote???
			Due to the Coronavirus, this has become a necessity. Please make Vote by Mail available.
03/27/2020 08:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Beth Fowler	I support voting by mail. This needs to be made available.
03/27/2020 08:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Maggie Sloane	I strongly encourage beginning planning now for mail-in voting in time for the 2020 general election. Voting is one our most precious rights, and we're counting on the House Select Committee to make remote voting as easy as possible for all citizens during these uncertain times.  p.s. I am not a troll
03/27/2020 08:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mary Margagliotti Bain	Paper ballots are needed for the 2020 election. Legislation need to be passed to have paper ballots allowed for all before the November 2020 elections take place.
03/27/2020 08:14 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Tamiko McSwain	I am writing from Lincoln County to support mail-in voting for the 2020 General Election. The current pandemic is creating a lot of uncertainty for the future, but one thing that should remain intact is our democracy. I firmly believe it would be an act of voter suppression to not take this measure.
03/27/2020 08:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Robert Payseur	Since no one can say for certain when we will be back to near normal because of Covid-19, it is my opinion that NC for what many other states have implemented, that is voting by mail in the November election.  It would give people like me, over 65 with underlying conditions, the opportunity to vote while avoiding crowds. Please give this your consideration.
03/27/2020 08:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	--None-- Tim Smith	Please provide for voting by mail. It works in other areas, promotes voter participation, and experience has shown that theoretical concerns about voter fraud have just not been realized. It makes civic and public health sense.
03/27/2020 08:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Tomso	I support the need for mail-in voting.
03/27/2020 08:42 PM	Continuity of State	Dr Margaret Wiener	I am writing to strongly support easy mail-in ballots across the state to ensure that we will

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		be able to exercise our rights during the pandemic. Because these are paper ballots, they also are not hackable.
03/27/2020 08:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	<p>North Carolina is decades behind other states in making voting as accessible as possible to its residents. And the need for us to overcome our state's deficiency in this essential state operation is only exasperated by the current public health crisis we are facing, the COVID-19 pandemic. There is *NO* reason that we, North Carolinians, cannot vote by mail. Voting by mail, especially with a return receipt sent to the voter once their vote in received, is very secure, as there are no electronic voting machines that can be hacked. Voting by mail also makes voting more accessible for people who do not have transportation. Furthermore, voting by mail, coupled with early voting, will help protect poll workers (many of whom are 65+ ) by reducing the number of people with whom poll workers have to interact in-person; additionally, it will keep voters safer as they will not be around as big of crowds if they go to vote in-person during early voting or on election day as they would have been.</p> <p>North Carolinians must be allowed to vote by mail, and this change must be enacted immediately!</p>
03/27/2020 09:05 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Susan Fowler	I am in support of voting by mail ballots in the November election.
03/27/2020 09:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Boting Andrea Greene	Voting by mail is a wonderful idea. We can safely do it that way. Bravo for doing this
03/27/2020 09:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Wendy Greene	Please hold this year's election by mail-in ballots. Other states do this well and we already have a system for absentee ballots. At my polling place the workers are all older and at great risk from the corona virus. It will likely still be with us in Nov. Plans to hold our elections safely need to happen now! Mail in ballots for all registered voters
03/27/2020 09:22 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Weaver	We need expanded absentee voting to ensure a voice for all. Safeguards can be in place to prevent snhemes while protecting voters..
03/27/2020 09:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Janet Propst	Agree with mail in ballots as no one knows when this pandemic will true end.Thanks
03/27/2020 09:32 PM	Education Working Group	May Mitchell	"North Carolina is decades behind other states in making voting as accessible as possible to its residents. And the need for us to overcome our state's deficiency in this essential state operation is only exasperated by the current public health crisis we are facing, the

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			<p>COVID-19 pandemic. There is NO reason that we, North Carolinians, cannot vote by mail. Voting by mail, especially with a return receipt sent to the voter once their vote is received, is very secure, as there are no electronic voting machines that can be hacked. Voting by mail also makes voting more accessible for people who do not have transportation. Furthermore, voting by mail, coupled with early voting, will help protect poll workers (many of whom are 65+ ) by reducing the number of people with whom poll workers have to interact in-person; additionally, it will keep voters safer as they will not be around as big of crowds if they go to vote in-person during early voting or on election day as they would have been.</p> <p>North Carolinians must be allowed to vote by mail, and this change must be enacted immediately!"</p>
03/27/2020 09:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Katina Parker	We need mail-in voting in November 2020.
03/27/2020 10:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Okun, Tema Tema Okun	We need easy mail in voting. This virus should not compromise our right to vote.
03/27/2020 10:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Christina Clark	<p>Mail-in voting is something our state needs and has needed even before the pandemic. The people most affected by legislative whim are the ones who have the hardest time voting on election day because of work, family, and health needs. It's time to make this change and make our elections more free and fair in North Carolina. How can fraud be a concern when the census is also taken in this way? There is no data supporting the idea that rampant mail fraud exists in the states that already use a vote-by-mail system. Do we think that North Carolinians are especially prone to fraud? Have more faith in our populace, and let us elect the people who represent us in a marginally more modern way! As a teacher, I've had to miss voting because of unforeseen school obligations multiple times. We can at least make Election Day a national holiday so that hard-working North Carolinians can cast their votes. We should lead the south, as we once did, in common-sense progressive measures that benefit all.</p>
03/27/2020 10:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Andrew Smith	We need mail-in voting.
03/27/2020 10:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Holly Zahn	We live in the future. We have to be able to vote my mail. Please enact this change to make voting more accessible to more voters.

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03/27/2020 11:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Brenda Tedder	I do not agree with mail in ballots. Just another way to rig the election.
03/27/2020 11:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Kathy Murray	Please support vote by mail in NC. We need to make it easier for people to vote, not more difficult at this difficult time.
03/27/2020 11:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Peeples	I am writing to encourage the GA to adopt a plan to have voting by mail. It is safe, ensures access to voting, and would increase the number of North Carolinians voting.
03/28/2020 04:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr William DeLano	Given the uncertainty of our public gathering in November, I strongly request that our general election be conducted through mail in paper ballots. The integrity of our democratic elections must be preserved while assuring public health. Make plans now. An ounce of preparation now will allow this to occur.
03/28/2020 05:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Kim Anderson	I respectfully request the state allow the easiest possible vote by mail option in the upcoming elections
03/28/2020 06:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	voter fraud Holly Laws	I want nothing that will jeopardize my right to free & fair election. The CoVid19 threat will be over by Nov. Pass voter ID laws too. The citizens of NC wanted that but Roy Cooper vetoed it bc according to him it is racist. How is having a ID for everything else not racist but voting it is? Please that fucked up logic to Nc. RC has proved many times he cares nothing for us in the western part of the state. To RC if you ain't Dem you are nothing.
03/28/2020 07:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Annie Caulkins	For the safety of all NC citizens we NEED mail-in voting to be allowed for this general election in November. Please do the see to it that N.C. voters can vote by mail. Thank you!
03/28/2020 07:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Beth Gerall	As Covid 19 has affected all of our lives we need to know that government can and will still function while adapting to these changing times. I am deeply concerned about upcoming elections. North Carolina needs to change from in-person voting to Vote by mail. We must adopt a vote by mail system for all eligible voters in time for the November election. This has been done in other states and must be done here to ensure all eligible voters can vote and to help keep poll workers and volunteers safe from the current and likely future health risks.
03/28/2020 08:07 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Rev Hart Edmonds	I'm light of the coronavirus pandemic I believe it is imperative to have mailed ballots for upcoming elections here in NC.



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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
03/28/2020 08:14 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Amanda Robertson	I believe that it is super important to have at-home voting this year to maintain safety and health of citizens and election workers. Please begin planning for this now. Thank you!
03/28/2020 08:15 AM	Health Care Working Group	Lynn Occhiuzzo	I am respectfully requesting that NC move to a vote-by- mail system similar to the vote-by-mail that other states have used for some time. This will to ensure that all eligible voters can vote and to keep poll workers and volunteers safe during the current and potential future epidemics. One voice - one vote.
03/28/2020 08:15 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Stewart	During this time of uncertainty, please do whatever possible to ensure that all citizens have the opportunity to vote. Please expand the times available and most importantly make sure that citizens are able to not by mail.
03/28/2020 08:24 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Dana Brinson	I am writing to ask that the general assembly take action to ensure that we have free and fair elections this fall by allowing for every eligible voter to have a mail-in ballot. This will ensure that people can vote in a secure and safe way as we continue to battle COVID-19. We can not "wait and see" and must take action now. Please take all necessary action to ensure we have our right to a fair election upheld in these uncertain times.
03/28/2020 08:25 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Change to voter process Kathy Stewart	Please change voting requirements from in-person to vote by mail. Makes good sense now during a pandemic, and all of the time for folks who can't always get to the polls.
03/28/2020 08:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ms Susan Bellinger	To ensure that we would be able to vote in the time of pandemics and other catastrophes we should be able to vote by mail.
03/28/2020 08:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Jacqueline Kloch	I'd like to share my support for mail-in voting in NC. Specifically, allowing people to verify their own ballot with one witness, providing pre-paid return envelopes, and counting all ballots received by election day. Every effort must be made to lower barriers and allow everyone to vote from home.
03/28/2020 08:55 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Cathy McCarthy	We cannot delay the elections this year when so much is at stake! Mail-in ballots is the answer. Online voting cannot be entertained at this time for 2 reasons. The first is its susceptibility to undetectable fraud. The second is that our most vulnerable populations without access to WiFi or a computer might be left out. Mail-in ballots ensure a level playing field and act to lower voter suppression. In saying this I am assuming a redundant security system for collecting, comparing ballots to the voter registration list (one that has been secured from foreign and domestic hacking) and then counting them (again in a way that secures the results from cyber hacking). The process should be made as simple as



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			possible for voters to use and Board of Election employees to handle in a secure environment. Non-election board employees should be not be allowed to go to voters' homes to collect ballots! We only need to look at the example of the 2018 election where criminal voter suppression of this nature resulted in negating the results of a county. Trusted, deputized state employees with proper credentials could be dispatched to gather the ballots of those who cannot access post boxes or secure postal outlets. We can do this!
03/28/2020 09:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Randall Maxey	Please allow for vote by mail
03/28/2020 09:07 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Nancy Johnson	I urge you to pass legislation allowing all North Carolinians to vote by mail (postage paid by the government). This is the best and safest way to insure a fair and open election process that doesn't endanger the well-being of poll workers.
03/28/2020 09:16 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Francis Kloch	Dear House Members, Please enable mail-in voting. Give every resident a prepaid ballot with maybe one witness signature. Count the votes as they come in so as to not overwhelm the system. Keep everyone safe in their homes while exercising their right to vote.
03/28/2020 09:17 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lynne Somers	Please consider mail-in voting this November in light of the COVID-19 crisis. Although we don't know how things will be in November, to be on the safe side, it would be prudent to allow this additional method to hear from everyone in our state! Thank you for considering.
03/28/2020 09:22 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Betsy Vetter	I respectfully recommend to the committee to immediately take the necessary steps to close the health insurance coverage gap - it is critical to increasing access to affordable, accessible health care for those at risk of exposure to COVID-19. Over 1 million North Carolinians do not have health insurance, and at least 400,000 have no options for health care coverage. Patients in the coverage gap are less likely to get the health care they need. North Carolina is long past due to help the working poor receive the health care coverage they need. If you had doubts before about the critical importance of making sure people have access to quality, affordable, adequate health care coverage - you shouldn't have them now. In the long run it is truly the most cost effective step we can make - and shouldn't government provide for the protection of its' people? Health care coverage protects everyone.  Thank you.
03/28/2020 09:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mr Samuel Hummel	North Carolina NEEDS mail-in voting, ASAP! Please vote YES on mail-in voting. It is more convenient, cost-effective, secure, and reliable!

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03/28/2020 09:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	mr. loring pardee	Please move quickly to put in place a system for mail-in voting for every eligible voter in NC. We need to know that you are taking the possibility of covid-19 disruptions seriously, and that you recognize the importance of every person having the ability to vote in November.
03/28/2020 09:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote-by-mail Judith McLeod	It is imperative to initiate a vote by mail system in NC, similar to those in other states. Protecting the right to vote for all citizens is the best way to preserve our American values.
03/28/2020 09:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Melinda Abrams	I support and request that NC make it possible for mail in paper ballots for the 2020 elections. If you are that worried about fraud have people put a fingerprint on their ballot.
03/28/2020 09:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	mail in voting jaclyn burns	Please ensure we have a way to vote via mail. Everyone should be able to vote in the coming election.
03/28/2020 09:47 AM	Health Care Working Group	Allyson Heafner	"I am writing from Lincoln County to support mail in voting for the 2020 General Election. The current pandemic is creating a lot of uncertainty for the future, but one thing that should remain intact is our democracy. I firmly believe it would be an act of voter suppression to not take this measure."
03/28/2020 09:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Vote by mail. We need it to keep people safe and to encourage voting.
03/28/2020 10:05 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Voting by mail Carol Morton	Please step away from bi partisan squabbling and consider all the implications of denying voting to happen by mail. I am 72 and will be concerned about going out to vote if things have not improved around the pandemic. Why not be prepared and put this vote by mail in place long before the need to scramble at the last minute. I implore you to do the right thing.
03/28/2020 10:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	1953 Daniel Read	Please allow NC voters to vote by mail in the coming election. Wisconsin is already doing this and with all the other stuff going on this is a sensible step which can be reasonably well verified. I have not missed an election on over 30 years. Keeping the franchise as open and viable is important to maintaining American democracy. Thank you for considering this.
03/28/2020 10:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Jacquelyn Clymore	We must move to vote by mail. Delaying this decision to "wait and see what will happen this fall" will make it much too late to make this needed change. Even in times of national crisis ,as we are experiencing right now, we must still be able to vote. Voting by mail keeps

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	Public Safety) Working Group		poll workers safe and assures that our elderly are protected since they are often the volunteers who staff polling places.
			PLEASE CHANGE TO VOTE BY MAIL.
03/28/2020 10:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Jason Derrick	I, Jason Derrick, request that the NC General Assembly immediately implement vote-by-mail for the November election.
03/28/2020 10:29 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote By Mail Bradley Bennett	In light of covid 19, NC needs to change to be able to fully vote by mail in all types of elections. The entire process from registration to voting should be able to be done though the mail or with online support. This will save lives, money, and increase turnout.
03/28/2020 10:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Rachel Lyons	I am requesting that NC move to a vote-by- mail system similar to the vote-by-mail that other states have used for a while.
03/28/2020 10:35 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mary Harwood	Mail in voting is vital to maintaining our Constitutional Right to vote. Every citizen must be assured this right.
03/28/2020 10:53 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Samim Cilem	We need to vote in elections to secure the survival of our democracy and the republic. We need to vote-by-mail in these challenging times where physical mobility is (and will be) severely curtailed. Please work as hard as possible towards making vote-by-mail (or electronically) a reality in the November 2020 elections.
03/28/2020 10:54 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lynn Carswell	Please work to establish voting by mail for our upcoming and future elections. This system has been used successfully in other states, and would ensure the safety of all citizens when voting, including poll workers and volunteers.
03/28/2020 10:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Susanne Vergara	Please allow voting by mail for the November Elections because of COVID-19.
03/28/2020 11:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keith Luck	The social distancing that we are encouraged to practice, for good reasons, highlights the continuing issue of voter turnout this election year. Six states use a mail-in ballot where by every registered voter can receive a paper ballot several weeks ahead of election day. Voters can take time to really think about their candidate selection and either mail their completed ballot in by the deadline or bring it to the polling place on election day. A quick

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			internet search uncovers numerous studies documenting an increase in voter participation with this method. Instead of actively suppressing voter turnout, this is one method of actively encouraging voter turnout. What logical reason can there be (aside from partisan advantage) for not encouraging people in our democracy to vote on election day.
03/28/2020 11:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote by mail William Cramer	Please move now to ensure we have equal and safe ballot access this November by implementing vote by mail for all elections this November.
03/28/2020 11:31 AM	Health Care Working Group	ROBIN WRIGHT	DON'T BE A MURDERER. EXPAND NC MEDICAID NOW! CALL A SPECIAL SESSION. DO IT FOR EVERYONE.
03/28/2020 11:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jeannine Sato	I support mail-in voting in NC during the COVID-19 pandemic. The right and ability to vote is central to our democracy and more important now than ever. Specifically, allowing people to verify their own ballot with one witness, providing pre-paid return envelopes, and counting all ballots received by election day is critical. Every effort must be made to lower barriers and allow everyone to vote from home.
03/28/2020 11:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mail-in voting Amy Kovick	Please allow and start planning for a mail-in voting option for the upcoming election to ensure that we can all vote even if people are stuck at home due to Covid-19.
03/28/2020 11:53 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	CJ Associates John Strickler	Please institute vote by mail for all, similar to what many other states have.
03/28/2020 12:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Jesse Kaufmann	Strongly support a vote by mail option be available to every voter this important election year. This is a very uncertain time. A good portion of our active voters are in the over 60 category and as we know Covid-19 can be particularly lethal to this age group. We need to reach out to every segment of our voters and make their lives easy, so that there is an accurate representation of the will of the people in North Carolina, especially in a presidential election year. Thank you for your consideration.
03/28/2020 01:04 PM	Education Working Group	mr abdalla raafat	I want North Carolina to try out vote-by-mail during this November's election. Vote-by-mail is much more convenient and safer from a public health perspective! It's also very secure.
03/28/2020 01:05 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Nicole Salgado	Please do everything possible to protect all workers, the elderly, and those whose jobs are lost as a result of this crisis. Also please enforce preventative measures and take as many as possible. Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.
			I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.

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			<p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response.</p> <p>Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p>
03/28/2020 01:09 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Carol Pelosi	Please consider first those people working in the restaurant and entertainment sector of the economy and help them by raising the current rate of unemployment insurance.
03/28/2020 01:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Peg Meerkatz	<p>NC's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I worked for years as a mental health professional 1st multiple sclerosis stopped me from working now I am 4w post op stage 4 cancer. I live in constant fear of utility turnoff's I often cannot afford copay's for meds &amp; have to go without. My lease is due to end May 31 initially I was told NO RENEWAL. Trying to keep my head above water &amp; w no \$ to move I stood to be homeless. This MAY change a meeting is scheduled w the property manager on Mon. I often cannot afford to eat. Having lost a lot of weight I cannot afford clothes that fit. I am in arrears on ALL UTILITIES when the pandemic ends so will the hiatus on non turn off of utilities. I will lose electric; water; cable &amp; TV. I keep my phone turned off to avoid bill collectors. While big corps are getting major tax breaks some of us just want to survive. I urge you to consider not just the needs of those that whose work and wages are at risk but those of us who are elderly; disabled &amp; infirm. DON'T FORGET US.</p> <p>Ecomic shock absorbers need to be establishes so that families (working; elderly; disabled; all races; all religions &amp; LGBTQ) and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p>
03/28/2020 01:18 PM	Health Care Working Group	Barbara & Jerrold Berke	Please put people first. So many out here are in deep financial trouble. Thanks
03/28/2020 01:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr Andrew Dalton	<p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies</p>

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			without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.
			We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.
03/28/2020 01:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Linda King	I understand the crisis we the people of America are facing but we have no leadership; therefore, we must count on state officials and local majors to lead the way. The essentials workers are on the frontline and need all the help that can be provided to them. The current administration in office has failed the people and the price will be the death of many people.
03/28/2020 01:28 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Rebecca Burmester	NC needs bipartisan support of all citizens. NC needs long term solutions that support citizens.
03/28/2020 01:30 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. JL Angell	you need to prioritize getting tests, ventilators, PPE and additional ICU beds before they are needed and the local government and nonprofit agencies serving those isolating or quarantining at home as well as expanded,expedited Medicaid for the uninsured, like the homeless, and getting the homeless housed so isolating/social distancing is possible and assessed
03/28/2020 01:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	BRIAN GARCIA	I, Brian Garcia request that the NC General Assembly immediately implement vote-by-mail for the November election.
03/28/2020 01:35 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Johnette Fields	Please put forth good ideas for bills making sure no one falls between the cracks for unemployment insurance or health insurance in the coming days and weeks.
03/28/2020 01:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Keith Allen	The people of North Carolina need guarantees from the legislature that voting will not be impaired by the coronavirus pandemic. Voting by mail should be implemented, in a manner that does not discourage participation in elections. If voting becomes, in fact, either difficult or dangerous, then the legislature will rightly be blamed for exploiting the pandemic to suppress voting. That would be outrageous. Doing NOTHING in this regard is unacceptable, and a dereliction of duty.
03/28/2020 01:39 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Clifton Lavenhouse	Now is the time to focus on the working people making sure they are taken care of.
03/28/2020 01:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Tom Caulkins	North Carolina needs to prepare NOW for mail-in voting this fall. There are certainly a lot of preparations required well in advance which is why the General Assembly needs to address this issue now. Thank you.
03/28/2020 01:41 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr joti sekhon	Please make sure that you are proactive and clear in your policies to fight this virus. Please have consistent messaging, and provide support for health care works as well as others who need assistance during this very difficult time.
03/28/2020 01:43 PM	Continuity of State	"We Must" Stella Butler	We must have our elections...Up until now...we have not responded well to each other...We

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Young	<p>have failed in keeping our Democracy strong.. At this point .We must keep order in our state to slow down this virus which was once called a Hoax...We must change minds and hearts to recognize this is real...</p> <p>We must keep our first responders safe....Keep grocery stores open...Drugstores....All needed operations open with safety in mind...We cannot mislead the public in order to slow this invisible enemy...We as a community must stand on solid grounds in order to beat what we cannot see...Please make sure our Nurses and Doctors get the equipment needed...When mask come in greater supply...Issue them and demand wearing them until we are in the clear...If we have empty Building or Manufactory plants that can be converted to make needed material...I suggest we get on it...</p> <p>This is the First Waive of what our future will look like...</p> <p>Think of the future demand for the jobs...Long term issue...Our Planet is changing...So must we...</p>
03/28/2020 01:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr William Miller	I urge you to prepare to send absentee ballots to all registered voters to minimize disruption of the fall elections.
03/28/2020 01:45 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Jeff Alguire	<p>Hello. As a citizen of North Carolina, I want to make clear that human lives should be our primary concern throughout this discussion. No matter what policies are recommended or enacted, people's health and welfare should be more important than the economy's health. We also need to listen to and act on the recommendations of our public health experts rather than unqualified opinions of any other public figure, politicians, celebrities or preachers.</p> <p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health. I urge you to use all available resources at your disposal to ensure that both our health care workers and our healthcare systems, including hospitals and treatment facilities, get all the needed supplies and equipment to protect themselves and care for the sick in this most urgent time of crisis. We need to take bold and sustained action to make sure that ALL people across the state, regardless of who they are or where they come from, will be protected in this unprecedented crisis, no matter who they voted for or who they criticize. What you do now and how you act will define your legacy for years to come. I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>In order to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves EVERYONE. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are giving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our response. This virus does not discriminate and neither should we, to avoid waves of re-infection.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>



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03/28/2020 01:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Cama Merritt	Please take all possible measures to protect our nurses, doctors, and other health care workers. Do whatever you can to provide them personal protection equipment. Provide ventilators and more beds as quickly as possible. Enforce the shelter in place regulation. Provide health insurance or other ways for those who do not have health insurance to have access to medical care. Our population in this pandemic is only as healthy as the weakest among us—we need people to be tested and isolated if they are contagious.
03/28/2020 01:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Terri Flam-Goldberg	I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs. We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response (including people in jails and prisons). Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.
03/28/2020 01:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group		State to State wide cleaning of the corona-virus while the community is forced to stay home. This would be the best time to sanitize prior to lifting the stay at home and work from home enforcement.
03/28/2020 01:48 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. and Mrs. W Michael Smith	As you craft North Carolina's response to the CoronaVirus pandemic, I urge you to: - Prioritize helping people: (a) Ensure that ALL North Carolinians have FREE access to testing and treatment, (b) create economic support systems that work from the bottom up, i.e., attending to the needs of our most economically vulnerable people, then those of us who are better resourced. But all of us need help. For example, my wife and I are retired and have depended on being Airbnb hosts for income beyond our limited social security and savings. That Airbnb income is completely lost now. Also ensure that price gouging is absolutely not tolerated. - Ensure that our public health systems, including our private hospitals are supported to provide the testing and care needed. We need unprecedented levels of collaboration -- not competition. - Work creatively to allow our economy to find new ways to function to provide goods and services as well as wages needed for us to continue to thrive in our state.
03/28/2020 01:50 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Mike Capobianco	I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.  We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.  Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and

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			we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.
03/28/2020 01:56 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Barbara Johnston	Congress must make sure proper protective equipment is provided to all health care workers, at the most basic level protective masks for all taking care of the public. In clinics and health centers NOT everyone is provided masks for routine use. Congress should also provide health centers with emergency funds.
03/28/2020 01:59 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Michael Lentz	What is being done for those that Medicaid Expansion would have covered, but currently do not have insurance.
03/28/2020 02:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Jim Donnelly	<p>North Carolina is a great place to live and work. Our economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. Please make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>Our future prosperity as a state depends on our citizens being able to stay in their homes and put food on their tables; small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers— also need to be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>Your leadership for North Carolina in this moment is critical - pursuing a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p> <p>Thank you for your important work! Be well.</p>
03/28/2020 02:02 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Adam Versenyi	<p>I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.</p> <p>We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p>
03/28/2020 02:04 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Janice Ridge	<p>Because the COVID 19 Virus affects all areas of our lives and all areas of this state, I am putting all my hopes, wishes and comments in this one message.</p> <p>People First Message</p> <p>I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state, US CITIZENS, where they work are protected in this moment.</p>

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			<p>We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p> <p>Public Health Message</p> <p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone.</p> <p>Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p> <p>Economy Message</p> <p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p>
03/28/2020 02:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Michael Sileno	<p>Please consider us public sector workers and my wife who is self-employed and can't file for unemployment, but does not have any work at this time due to hair salon shutdowns during this pandemic. We need to make sure all get the support and relief we need during this hard time. Put the people first in any relief efforts. Thank you.</p>
03/28/2020 02:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Jeff Alguire	<p>Hello. As a citizen of North Carolina, I want to make clear that human lives should be our primary concern throughout this discussion. No matter what policies are recommended or enacted, people's health and welfare should be more important than the economy's health. We also need to listen to and act on the recommendations of our public health experts rather than unqualified opinions of any other public figure, politicians, celebrities or preachers. Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p>

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			<p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of EVERYONE, including people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>I urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p>
03/28/2020 02:06 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr James Bengel	<p>I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.</p> <p>We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p> <p>Much has been made of the damage to the economy, both nationally and here in the state. We're told that we cannot survive with business shuttered and unemployment skyrocketing. And that makes a good sound bite, but that's about all. Even from a purely economic standpoint, removing the guardrails that are the only thing standing between our people and a nightmare scenario straight out of The Walking Dead is short-sighted, reckless, even foolhardy. Consider the impact on an economy that depends on the consumer for 70% of its activity if the consumers are either dead or wishing they were. Do you suppose the consumer is going to be out buying houses and cars and iPhones when the choice is between that and the treatment they need to fight off a virus that has a mortality rate (in the US) roughly 4 times as high as living in a combat zone? Already too many of our citizens have to choose between their medication and food and rent. Amplify that by several orders of magnitude, and the consumer has left the marketplace. Before we can think about the business of reopening business, we must be about the business of beating COVID-19. Because until we are through to the other side of this pandemic, there IS no other priority higher. North Carolina has always been resilient, has always been</p>

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			tough, and we will come back from this, hopefully stronger than ever. But in order to rebuild, we must first survive.
03/28/2020 02:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Minister Elworth Cheek	Please focus on supporting people, institutions, and a strong economy.
03/28/2020 02:17 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Sandy Irving	Expand medicare in NC
03/28/2020 02:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Jerry Gershenthorn	<p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>Please propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap (expand medicaid coverage), provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response.</p> <p>Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p>
03/28/2020 02:21 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Alyson Callaway	Health Care workers and support staff ie housekeeping and dietary need to be tested daily to stop the introduction of the virus into the health care environment. Personal protective equipment needs to be manufactured within the state where possible and quickly distributed. The labs within the state that can manufacture tests and read the tests need to be employed to the fullest.
03/28/2020 02:21 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Kay Reibold	<p>Dear Members of the Committee:</p> <p>I am concerned that all North Carolinians are remembered in this health crisis. I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.</p> <p>We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put</p>

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			<p>food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p> <p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response. Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p> <p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be.</p> <p>Thank you. Sincerely, Kay Reibold Raleigh</p>
03/28/2020 02:22 PM	Health Care Working Group	Vickie Atkinson	<p>I am writing to ask you for a big response to COVID-19 that puts people first - all people - across the state.</p> <p>State level dollars should go to programs for families and people: education, healthcare, early childhood, and social services.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective</p>

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			institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.
03/28/2020 02:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jerry Gershenthorn	<p>Please pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.</p> <p>We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p>
03/28/2020 02:24 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. John Clark	Expand Medicaid ASAP. Had we had this in place, North Carolinians would be better than without it. 500M could at least be covered and can surely bet this would save lives.
03/28/2020 02:27 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Miriam Thompson	<p>You have set up a COVID-19 task force. We need your leadership and ensuring that all dollars federal and state be amplified to meet the needs of the growing number of COVID-19 constituents. You do not want death to arrive at your door because of an action. Also what must be included as an expansion of Medicaid, the appropriate use of state revenue dollars and the federal funds allocated to our Frontline workers, our hospital and medical facilities, the rising number of unemployed, those afflicted with the virus, and wise sequestering of funds for economic revival. Also the state must put into affect a mailing system for which Congress supplied 400 million nationwide. Democracy should and need not be sacrificed to the pandemic.</p>
03/28/2020 02:28 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Jessica Friedman	<p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response.</p> <p>Protecting public health and containing COVID-19 will require our state to make investments in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and the supports to healthy living that we need now more than ever.</p>
03/28/2020 02:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Kate Douglas Torrey	First focus: keeping people safe and secure—in terms of health, the ability to be adequately housed, fed, educated.



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			Decisions made to ignore the opportunity to expand Medicaid (at practically no cost to the state, give the 90/10 split) have left half a million unprepared and unprotected—that renders the whole state —both people, hospitals, and businesses—much more vulnerable in the face of the pandemic
03/28/2020 02:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Joan Brannon	<p>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p>
03/28/2020 02:42 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Ricky Harrid	It's time to look out for the poor and middle class working folks. Who work hard for our money and would love to retire at the ages of 62 yes not 65 or 70 that's crazy that money is our
03/28/2020 02:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr David Tillery	We need to move to mail-in voting, especially for the general election in 2020
03/28/2020 02:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mia Burroughs	Please ensure that we will be able to vote by mail and/or other safe means in November.
03/28/2020 02:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Eric Chen	I would like to voice my support for allowing mail-in voting for this election and future elections because it allows more people to exercise their right to vote. We should make sure that we reduce the barriers to voting for all people because we are built on the principle of democracy. Thank you!
03/28/2020 02:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Elizabeth Evans	I fully support mail-in voting for future elections. I think this is especially important for the next 12 months, but am supportive of it in the long-term, too. Thank you.
03/28/2020 02:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Gabriel Everhart	This pandemic is terrible, but has revealed some very real truths that we need to deal with here in NC: We need to switch to an all mail-in ballot system. It's cheaper, more secure,

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		and pandemic-free!
03/28/2020 02:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sanji Datar	In the light of COVID-19, serious considerations must be given to allow vote by mail in NC. While we hope that the epidemic may be under control before November, we must be prepared for the worst. NCGA must be committed to protect NC citizens' fundamental right to vote.
03/28/2020 02:50 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Andrea Shapiro	In the time of this COVID-19 mail-in ballots are essential for the November election. Otherwise too many Americans will be cut out of the democratic process.
03/28/2020 02:50 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Kathy Kaufman	As you know, we do not know how long the covid-19 pandemic will last, but we do know that we will not have a vaccine until some time in 2021. In light of this reality it is crucially important that we establish automatic vote-by-mail in NC, in order to ensure that every voter can vote, regardless of health status. We should make vote-by-mail as easy as possible so that our citizens can fully participate in November. We will be watching. Thank you.
03/28/2020 02:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lauren Hill	Due to the COVID 19 pandemic, I support mail in ballots as a safe way to allow everyone to vote in November, and beyond. This must be safe, easy, and free to everyone. Please keep supporting the post office, and ensure they have safe working conditions since we rely on their effort.
03/28/2020 02:51 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Pamela Culp	<p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health. I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment. We must protect our health care workers, first responders and patients with protective gear, ventilators, paid sick leave and safe child care. North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.</p> <p>It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.</p> <p>Our state and country must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>I urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what both the economy and North Carolinians need—a focus on what people need to be well. If we take care of</p>

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03/28/2020 02:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Heiderose Kober	each other, we will recover, our economy will recover and all will be stronger. Thank you. Please make mail-in voting simpler and provide a postage-paid envelope. Also, allow online voter registration.
03/28/2020 02:52 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Robert Hyman	I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment.  We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.  Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.
03/28/2020 02:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Jessica Anderson	Please allow vote by mail! It's a public health issue, but also it will make voting easier. Many states have vote by mail and some only vote by mail, so we have models to look at and modify for our state context.
03/28/2020 02:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dawna Jones	Please begin a process to allow us to vote by mail for the upcoming election. We need to create the infrastructure now to be prepared for November.
03/28/2020 02:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Kristen Hernandez	Please fund emergency child care efforts for essential workers (first responders, hospital staff, nursing and adult group home staff, child care program staff, food service staff, military families, utility line workers, truckers, and food delivery drivers) to help our communities stay safe and healthy. Child care providers need clear guidelines on when to stay open, how to sanitize, and what kinds of ratios to maintain during this health crisis. They also need incentives to stay open. Paying for the child care of these essential NC workers will help everyone stay healthy, safe, and secure in this time of crisis.
03/28/2020 02:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Robert Hyman	North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of people living on low incomes and in poverty. I urge you to make sure that people whose work and wages are at risk are the first needs that you address in your response.  It is only by making sure people have income or wage replacement that they can stay in their home and put food on the table, and small businesses employing people in our community—like child care centers and retailers—can be supported.

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			<p>We must act with urgency to bolster programs and policies that serve as economic shock absorbers so families and communities can weather the coming storm. This response should not pursue flawed policy agendas that would give tax breaks to big companies without accountability to people nor further enrich the already wealthy.</p> <p>We urge you to lead North Carolina in this moment with a vision for what the economy needs—a focus on what people need to be well.</p>
03/28/2020 02:54 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lewise Busch	We must have vote-by-mail. Under the current circumstances, this is imperative NOW. LewiseBusch
03/28/2020 02:54 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Andrea Tanner	As you consider options for voting in the November 2020 general election, please consider mail-in ballots. It's important to expand access to voting for all eligible residents of North Carolina. I would FAVOR mail-in ballots, with the uncertainty of our health crisis. Please research the many states who offer mail-in ballots, especially data about the high voter participation.
03/28/2020 02:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Rhyne Setzer	It is quite possible that we will still be dealing with COVID-19 here in North Carolina when the general election comes around in November. I want to encourage the legislature to conduct the election in November as a fully mail-in election. The state of Oregon has several years of successful experience with mail-in voting now. In addition to being compatible with the physical distancing we need to protect against COVID-19, mail-in voting increases voter participation. Certainly a win-win situation!
03/28/2020 02:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Michele Lynn	I am supportive of setting up a vote by mail system sooner than later. Thank you.
03/28/2020 02:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Miriam Rabkin	I am deeply concerned about the safety, security and fairness of the November elections in the context of the coronavirus pandemic. I strongly urge the Legislature to consider to a secure, pre-paid vote-by-mail election system, such as the approach in use in Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and/or Utah.
03/28/2020 02:58 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lynne Kane	We need to support our medical/emergency personnel and their families and upgrade our infrastructure, including cybersecurity and secure voting, most likely by mail.
03/28/2020 02:58 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Diane Robertson	<p>We are in unprecedented times and must do all we can to ensure that everyone is able to vote while we maintain safe protocols in a COVID-19 world.</p> <p>There are many successful models of vote by mail such as Oregon, that we should adapt and there are now federal resources to support addressing our election in 2020. I urge that we amend our voting regulations to allow for secure vote by mail and secure online voter</p>

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			registration during the 2020 short session.
03/28/2020 03:00 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Jennifer Bremer	I strongly encourage you to expand opportunities for absentee voting, including eliminating the two-signature requirement (I live alone myself) and ideally mailing absentee requests to all registered voters as well as paying postage for return of the ballots and/or providing for drop-off of sealed ballots in local government facilities, to be kept in locked boxes and sent to the county BOE for tallying. Now is the time to make voting easier, not harder and potentially more dangerous.