

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/28/2020 03:01 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Douglas Schell	Do not shut down small businesses . These are the companies that add the most jobs and will now layoff the most people. Certainly some enforceable, temporary restrictions might be needed. I speak as a retired Business Professor from UNC-Pembroke
03/28/2020 03:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Jacquelyn Dotson	<p>Although I copied most of this from suggestions, I agree wholeheartedly with the statements and requests made herein. My family is self-employed, and we need help now. We want all our neighbors in NC to have good health care, please expand Medicaid now. As a nurse, I can tell you that not doing so is unconscionable.</p> <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>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. 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> <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</p>

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03/28/2020 03:02 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Susan Warren	<p>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.</p> <p>One thing I hear far to little about is older adults who do not have jobs, and everyone who does not have a jobs. We especially need financial support. My social security amounts to less than \$210 per month. And working is not an option right now. And unemployment insurance does not apply to this population. I and perhaps WE also need technical support. I just saw that there is a one time \$1,200 amount of money being given by the government to everyone. The government is offering the same amount to a person who earns \$79,000 I believe, and a person more in my category. Disheartening. And from what I saw, it requires doing it online, which is not an option for me. And a lot of others, I imagine. This must be remedied.</p>
03/28/2020 03:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol Offen	<p>I am writing to express my strong support of mail-in voting for the November elections. It is the safest way to ensure that elections proceed normally and that everyone eligible can vote.</p>
03/28/2020 03:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rebecca Ceresse	<p>We need to move to a mail in ballot situation for the November elections, so there will be no possible delay to the November election due to potential health concerns, and to ensure every voter can cast a ballot. Oregon and Washington State already do this and have excellent voter participation numbers because of it. Oregon has the most convenient voting system in the country. Since adopting vote-by-mail, Oregon consistently ranks as a national leader in voter turnout.</p> <p>Here is a brief summary of the Oregon process: Registered voters receive a ballot two to three weeks before an election, giving time to research issues or candidates. Voters also receive an official ballot to complete and insert into the security envelope which is placed in the ballot return envelope and signed by the voter. The ballot return envelope can be stamped and mailed or dropped off at any official drop box? across the state. If a voter casts their ballot after the Wednesday before an election, the ballot should be left at a drop box site to ensure it's counted. https://sos.oregon.gov/voting/pages/voteinor.aspx</p> <p>There are ways to protect against voter fraud, and by creating drop-off sites, there are ways to cut down on postage costs. Moving to a mail in system is completely doable and essentially important.</p>
03/28/2020 03:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Rita Mullis	<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</p>

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03/28/2020 03:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Nancy Grebenkemper	<p>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>We need to ensure that everybody can vote in November! By changing to mail in voting everybody who is registered has an opportunity to vote. This would not only increase turnout but ensure fair elections. Please institute mail in voting!</p>
03/28/2020 03:10 PM	Health Care Working Group	rev. louisa dyer	<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. 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>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.</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> <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</p>

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03/28/2020 03:10 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Rita Mullis	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.
			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.
			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.
03/28/2020 03:11 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Rita Mullis	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.
			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.
03/28/2020 03:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	mrs carol Uphoff	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.
			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.
			Everybody needs an equal right to vote! I support all mail-in voting, with provision for voter assistance centers, particularly to assist with literacy.
			There are good results, free of significant voter fraud, from the states like CO, HI,OR,UT,and WA that do this. Many other states have options for full or partial mail-in voting. It was proven to SAVE costs for CO according to a Pew Charitable Trust's 2016 study of the CO process.
			This is a perfect time for NC to pivot to this, given the likely difficulty of those who are or

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			<p>have been sick with Covid to get to in-person voting.</p> <p>Social distancing at in-person voting would present a number of logistical problems and risks.</p> <p>AT ANY RATE: absentee voting must now be freer of barriers: 0-1 witness(without notary, at LEAST if we are still under stay at home orders, but need for Notary does present another barrier anytime), and opportunity to register and absentee vote in one effort! I like the idea of being able to track a mail-in vote through it's being counted.</p> <p>Thank you! I am aware of the bi-partisan positive efforts happening, and the long work required of all, right now especially. Thank you!</p>
03/28/2020 03:17 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Jim Donnelly	<p>As your committee works to support the education system in North Carolina during this time of crisis, please do so in a way that also addresses the long-standing inequity and insufficiency of funding for K-12 education in our state.</p>
03/28/2020 03:17 PM	Health Care Working Group	Chad Ellis	<p>Thank you for your important work!</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.</p> <p>One simple and long overdue action is Medicaid expansion. Our legislature's cruel and unusual refusal to expand Medicaid is unconscionable, harmful, and reckless. Data from similarly situated states has overwhelmingly shown positive economic and health outcomes from expansion.</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 03:24 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Gail Brock	<p>Please focus on providing means of a safe and dignified life for all -- health care, housing, food. People should be covered by private or public insurance or access to public clinics. They should not lose their houses or apartments because of pandemic-caused interruptions in income. Those who are now homeless should have access to safe housing not only because it is right, but because without it they will spread the disease. Either some version of food stamps or income support should make sure that families do not go hungry.</p>
03/28/2020 03:26 PM	Continuity of State		<p>Please! Let's have mail in voting for our presidential election. The lives of Americans are at</p>

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		stake.
03/28/2020 03:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Janet Montgomery	Please put people first in your deliberations. I'm worried about all those who could have been covered by Medicaid but are not. This is the time, now, to address their struggle.
03/28/2020 03:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Jonathan Kotch	<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 03:44 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Ann Collins	You must expand Medicaid to ALL who desperately need help NOW!!!!It will only get worse!!
03/28/2020 03:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Robert Dalsemer	<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 03:48 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Theresa Rosenberg	Please take bold and sustained action to 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.

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03/28/2020 03:49 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Stephanie Biziewski	<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>North Carolina's economy is only as strong as the economic security of all people, including and especially those 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, retailers, and various service providers —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 03:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. D.A. McCullough	<p>Hello:</p> <p>Thank you for investigating how best to support the citizens of N.C. during this time of crisis. For those citizens who are daily going out to keep our cities and essential businesses functioning, we must make sure they have the money to keep feeding and sheltering themselves and their families along with receiving healthcare. For those citizens who have been forced to close their businesses and for those employees laid off or without work as a result, we also must make sure they have continued income for food, shelter and healthcare needs. The Department of Revenue should have a record of who needs the most assistance along with social security records. We don't need to leave any citizen behind who was already being left behind in an economy that was not working fairly for all. Put in place a mandate to stop anyone from being evicted during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Doesn't everyone need a home? Inject more capital into making sure citizens and their families can get food without being made to feel like they are beggars or leaches. Doesn't everyone need to eat? The system indeed has had structural and discriminatory elements all along that have favored some over others (why do people who already have a whole lot of money get more opportunities and privileges over those who are still working hard to just live?). In effect, use your hearts, empathy, compassion and not just DOLLAR SENSE.</p> <p>In appreciation for realizing that we are all literally the same when it comes to needing essentials and sharing what we have in order to have a society of healthy, vibrant, caring</p>

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03/28/2020 03:54 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Mary Goodkind	<p>citizens... D.A. McCullough, NC citizen</p> <p>I am especially concerned about people who are poor, working for hourly wages and tips, or working several part -time jobs with no job security. Please extend and beef up unemployment benefits; expand Medicaid, support NGO's that provide care to abused women, mental health counseling, and food to needy families; and work creatively to expand affordable housing and rent/mortgage relief for single people and families. All of these things will strengthen the health of our people and lessen stresses during this painful contracting of our economy. All of the problems people faced before Covid19 are still there, but paramount in my mind is the lack of access to adequate healthcare, including services for people addicted to opioids, for pregnant women, and for the working poor. We must also address the unhealthy conditions and lack of real rehabilitation/edication programs in prisons and detention centers before they become hot spots. Thank you for considering my views. I appreciate your service and leadership in our state.</p>
03/28/2020 03:55 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. D.A. McCullough	<p>Hello:</p> <p>Thank you for investigating how best to support the citizens of N.C. during this time of crisis. For those citizens who are daily going out to keep our cities and essential businesses functioning, we must make sure they have the money to keep feeding and sheltering themselves and their families along with receiving healthcare. For those citizens who have been forced to close their businesses and for those employees laid off or without work as a result, we also must make sure they have continued income for food, shelter and healthcare needs. The Department of Revenue should have a record of who needs the most assistance along with social security records. We don't need to leave any citizen behind who was already being left behind in an economy that was not working fairly for all. Put in place a mandate to stop anyone from being evicted during and after the COVID-19 crisis. Doesn't everyone need a home? Inject more capital into making sure citizens and their families can get food without being made to feel like they are beggars or leaches. Doesn't everyone need to eat? The system indeed has had structural and discriminatory elements all along that have favored some over others (why do people who already have a whole lot of money get more opportunities and privileges over those who are still working hard to just live?). In effect, use your hearts, empathy, compassion and not just DOLLAR SENSE.</p> <p>In appreciation for realizing that we are all literally the same when it comes to needing essentials and sharing what we have in order to have a society of healthy, vibrant, caring citizens... D.A. McCullough, NC citizen</p>
03/28/2020 03:56 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Robin Hammond	We need to expand Medicaid!
03/28/2020 03:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Donna Durfee	As a pharmacist, I believe we need to control the transmission of this virus and to take care of all of our citizens of all ages and races and genders. We need to expand Medicaid and make sure that all of our residents are taken care of and don't suffer financially as part of this pandemic. In addition we have to take care of our healthcare providers from physicians to the hospital janitors who are at high risk of infection and death. Lastly we need supplies-adequate personal protective equipment and all drugs needed to care for

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03/28/2020 03:59 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Ron Katz	<p>patients.</p> <p>We are learning now how the inability of the NC General Assembly to not pass Medicaid Expansion is affecting all of us. By denying the expansion, you have not only put those people who are without health insurance in some form of risk but all of our state. We are as strong as the weakest among us. Please, health care should not be a privilege; it should be a right for all in our state, and you can do what is right by expanding Medicaid, and not including any work requirement. The cost should not be measured in dollars but in lives saved.</p>
03/28/2020 04:00 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Mary Lucas	<p>Please extend help to the people who need it most..the poor, homeless, our immigrant community. Supporting them is not only morally right, but also is one of the best ways to flatten the curve: these are the very people most likely to get sick and infect others.</p>
03/28/2020 04:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Ron Katz	<p>I am so grateful that North Carolina does so much to increase access for people to vote. However, under the circumstances, there are two things that should be enacted. First, whether the courts act or not act to suspend the photo ID requirement for voting, the NC General Assembly should unilaterally remove it for the 2020 general election. It is an unnecessary requirement that only inhibits voting. Second, the NC General Assembly should do what it can to expand voting by mail. We do not know the affects or the length of the pandemic, and safety should be a priority. Whether the risk is real or imagined by voters, all should be done to allay any fears voters would have in participating. Thanks for your consideration.</p>
03/28/2020 04:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Jill Cargile	<p>Please allow absentee ballot votes for all, mail out notices to all, during the COVID-19.</p>
03/28/2020 04:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Andrea Shaw	<p>Hello,</p> <p>We need to ensure that we all can vote come November. Hopefully we'll all be moving around again by then, but we don't know that, and if we need to have mail-in voting, planning for that has to start sooner than later. Please work as hard as possible to prepare for mail-in voting.</p> <p>Thank you very much,</p> <p>Andrea</p>
03/28/2020 04:10 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Libby Johnson	<p>We need everyone to be able to receive treatment during this pandemic. including those most vulnerable without healthcare, and those iving in detention centers and overcrowded county jails and prisons. Immigrant populations whose access to health care is minimal, are running scared due to the continued ICE raids impacting our communities. DHS and their ICE raids and activities need to stop. Medical messsaging needs to be clear and evidenced based so citizens are not living in fear with misinformation coming from our President who is so misleading in his White House talks to Americans. Medical providers' needs should be respected and met by our government. More emergency and rescue funding needs to go to hospitals that have been struggling to stay open even before the Covid-19 crisis showed its ugly facec since millions of Americans seek charity care in</p>

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			<p>their emergency rooms. We are paying for what should have been done many many years ago when states had the opportunity for Medicaid Expansion and did not move forward on this. We have chosen profits over people's lives and continue down this road as a nation. There is money available to improve the lives of all of us. When the Pentagon and the military industrial complex uses over 50% of our tax dollars, instead of on programs for human needs, our nation loses its soul and we are headed towards spiritual death says Martin Luther King, Jr. God have mercy on us and move us towards compassion and love as our guides, not weapons that destroy humans and our earth.</p>
03/28/2020 04:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	NC Voter Mitchell Price	I'd like to see us set up mail in voting for November to ensure our elections are not disturbed by the corona virus.
03/28/2020 04:13 PM	Economic Support Working Group	NC Voter mitchell price	The changes the GOP made under McCrory to unemployment insurance need to be undone. We need unemployment payouts for 26 weeks like the majority of other states.
03/28/2020 04:14 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Nancy Grebenkemper	<p>I am writing to the House Select Committee on COVID-19. Our State needs your leadership in making sure that when it comes to COVID-19, people are put first that they receive the care they need both medically and financially and that social agencies are funded to the level that makes that happen!</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. Maybe it is time to use that rainy day fund to make sure that North Carolina works for everyone!</p>
03/28/2020 04:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	9199675388 valerie young	PLEASE prepare for us to do mail in voting for primaries and in November.
03/28/2020 04:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Michael Eisenberg	<p>Tell NC House committee on COVID-19 to focus on supporting people, public institutions, and a strong economy</p> <p>CORRECTED: The original version of this email had House Speaker's Moore name listed incorrectly. We apologize for the error!</p> <p>NC House Speaker Tim Moore has established a House Select Committee to respond to COVID-19 with bipartisan representation and has created a portal to collect public comments.</p> <p>Your voice is needed now!</p> <p>The harm to people – particularly those historically excluded from opportunity and those who have been excluded from federal relief – must be the focus of state efforts.</p> <p>Using the comment templates below, share with legislative members the importance of:</p> <p>Focusing on people first Supporting public institutions and infrastructure Sustaining a strong economy Do you have five minutes to take action?</p>

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			<p>TAKE ACTION!</p> <p>Use these templates to guide your comments!</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 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 04:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Stephanie Hellert	<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>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</p>

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			<p>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> <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 04:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Louis Gadol	<p>The least expensive, most effective, and quickest thing you can do is pass legislation that expands Medicaid under the ACA, like most other states. Doing so would allow poor people to get health care and keep their jobs without going hungry and losing their housing. You should also raise our minimum wage to \$15/hour for all, including those in the food industry. Paid sick days and sick leave would provide economic support when employees are unable to work and decrease virus transmission at their work places; this would help small businesses continue to operate. You should end the practice of shell companies buying mortgage debt and evicting those who got behind in their payments, and provide reconstructed, low-interest mortgages for the inhabitants. All of these things would strengthen and stabilize North Carolina's economy.</p>
03/28/2020 04:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rochelle Fields	<p>There is no insurance that we will be able to vote in November. To protect my constitutional right, please do what you can to expedite mail-in voting.</p>
03/28/2020 04:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Charles Keeling	<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 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</p>

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			<p>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. 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> <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>

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03/28/2020 04:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Charles Keeling	<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 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>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. 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> <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>

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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 04:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Jaclyne Purtell	Please expand the criteria and access to mail-in voting for the November 2020 general election. Beyond the importance of allowing voters to make decisions that will address their personal health needs, additional mail in voting options - including a longer period to request ballots and more publicly available information and instructions - could have a positive impact on the overall voter participation in this election. NC has a number of important races on the ballot this year and should ensure that all eligible voters have a chance to participate in the election process.
03/28/2020 04:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	dr. robert thur	Mail in voting is a right, and particularly now, a necessity. Bob
03/28/2020 04:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	dr. Barbara Clawson	<p>This is a time when we need to forget partisan politics and come together for policies that promote the common good, which is what I believe government is all about. 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 04:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Linda Hansma	<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</p>

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			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
03/28/2020 04:54 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Victoria Richardson	Please prepare for mail-in voting should COVID-19 conditions continue through 2020 and the general election. It is imperative that we be prepared as we were not for COVID-19.
03/28/2020 04:55 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Jim Smith	<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. Supporting Medicaid expansion is a critical part of the needed public 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 04:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Clare Reece-Glore	Please go to a voting by mail system as other states have. Thank you.
03/28/2020 05:01 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		I am writing to support mail-in voting for the general election of 2020. And to call for investigating any organized attempts to subvert this basic right.
03/28/2020 05:02 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Catherine Marie	<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>

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03/28/2020 05:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Robert Lincoln	I am writing to strongly encourage the early preparation for mail in voting for the November election this year. I want every NC citizen to be able to vote by mail.
03/28/2020 05:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Linda Smathers	The House Select Committee on COVID-19 should focus on the health of people first and foremost. Support for public institutions, infrastructure and the economy should come later. This is a life and death crisis which requires strong, nonpartisan and immediate leadership.
03/28/2020 05:08 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joseph Tsai	The bedrock of a legitimate representative democracy is free, fair, and accessible elections, as enshrined in our Federal and State Constitutions. In this extraordinary time of uncertainty brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, broad and forward-thinking measures must be taken to ensure the accessibility of the election process for the whole electorate. Accordingly, I request and support 1) a universal vote-by-mail process for the 2020 general election, 2) re-consideration of witness and other requirements for vote-by-mail that are consistent with prevailing social distancing and quarantine guidelines due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and 3) an extended early voting period. I go on the record to urge all members of the House Select Committee and the General Assembly to support our democratic process with these measures.
03/28/2020 05:35 PM	Education Working Group	Ms Wilhelmina Rotella	We need to fix the way we vote making it a easy to vote.
03/28/2020 05:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Mary Monroekolek	We must ensure all voters have access to mail in ballots. Protect our democracy.
03/28/2020 05:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Kimberly Scott	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. How will you be sure that legal, citizens only are voting AND only voting ONCE?
03/28/2020 05:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Neil Offen	With an impending election, it is of the utmost importance that the state begin planning for voting by mail, for all NC citizens. Given the current circumstances surrounding the coronavirus pandemic, it is absolutely essential that we encourage all residents of the state to vote by mail and that we create the structure that allows that to be done efficiently and fairly.
03/28/2020 05:45 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Helen Wolfson	<p>These comments span multiple issues. I hope you will share them with other groups.</p> <p>I understand that it's your job to create a bi-partisan response to COVID-19 in NC. I am a senior citizen who has lived in NC for almost 40 years. I have grown to think of NC as my home and North Carolinians as my neighbors. I am writing to ask you to take care of ALL North Carolinians in this unprecedented (in my lifetime anyway) crisis.</p>

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			<p>Whatever measures you put in place, I beg you to focus on people first. People need unemployment insurance, paid sick leave (for their own sake and for the sake of us all anyone who is sick can stay home from work). I have a friend who just lost her job and, with it, her health insurance. She needs to be protected in this turbulent time.</p> <p>Until a few weeks ago, I worked as a contractor in several hospitals and residential facilities. My work has all been suspended, but the health care workers with whom I worked are still at work. And, they do not have enough protective gear. They must get this gear to be able to contain the risk of working in their environment. If we fail to take care of our health care workers, there will be no one to care for us.</p> <p>We also need to provide testing and treatment to anyone who needs it, not just those who can afford to pay for it. We must extend testing and care to everyone, including all marginalized communities like undocumented immigrants and the homeless. These measure are all not only beneficial those who are ill — they benefit all of us. We must work as unified society to combat this virus. If we fail to take care of some members of society, the virus will continue to spread.</p> <p>As you address the economic situation, I urge you to take care of people whose work and wages are at risk and who do not have resources to sustain themselves during a crisis. I urge you to put people before large corporations—providing funds to help those most in need.</p> <p>North Carolina has a rainy day fund and some undesignated funds. I urge you to use them to benefit the individuals who most need it. If this isn't a rainy day, I don't know what is.</p>
03/28/2020 05:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Catherine Ford	Please establish mail-in voting for the general election in November. This is important both for public health reasons and also to ensure voting access for all citizens.
03/28/2020 05:51 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Laurie Lamoreaux	<p>Our collective safety, from both a medical and economical standpoint, will only be maintained by investments that ensure our healthcare professionals have the proper personal protective equipment (PPE) and medical supplies to care for those who fall ill during the COVID-19 outbreak. The NC General Assembly's leadership is needed to focus funding to areas critical for everyone's health and to contain the spread of disease. Because individuals are infectious during the asymptomatic phase of illness, no one is safe until everyone has recovered and there are no more cases. To do that, monies are needed to first fund families and medical facilities.</p> <p>Families and individuals, particularly those who have been laid off during this crisis, need to be assured that the state will provide funding to public programs, particularly health care such as emergency services and social services that provide food and shelter. Hospital personnel who are putting their lives at stake, and possibly the lives of their families, need to be assured that they will be able to do their jobs during this incredibly stressful time without the added worry of PPE shortages. Increased access to testing would also allow them to work knowing that their cough is actually due to allergies or a</p>

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			<p>cold and not the virus. Not knowing the answer of whether or not they are infected decreases the number of professionals available to care for our citizens because they will then need to stay at home and not risk infecting others.</p> <p>Lastly, I urge you to ensure that people who have lost income due to the virus outbreak are compensated through some type of wage replacement so that they can then purchase needed supplies from retailers which in turn support our businesses. It is not in the state's best interest to use funds to give tax breaks to big companies. They have the option at this time to borrow money at zero percent.</p> <p>I would ask that you put the health of the people of North Carolina, not corporations, first. By doing so, the health of the economy will follow. Your constituents will thank you.</p>
03/28/2020 05:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Becky LedBetter	<p>As a country, state or local municipality the citizens of North Carolina have never had to face anything like this pandemic we are now immersed in. The uncertainty weighs heavily with everyone. 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>
03/28/2020 05:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Why Take? Give while you MARSHA HARRIS	<p>A week ago the N.C. Revenue Department deducted over \$2500 from my savings account.</p> <p>Honestly, I had received a letter which I ignored, because I assumed it was related to another 'overpayment' which I had received in the past. My error of irresponsibility.</p> <p>The issue is that that was ALL of our (my daughter & I) savings, as a single mother. Do you know how long it takes to save that much money? And, for the sole purpose of being prepared for the unexpected!</p> <p>I suffer from anxiety and high blood pressure issues, and due to the ongoing health pandemic, I have not worked due suffering from a severe upper respiratory infection and fear of my health issue getting worse, if I come in contact with an individual who may be infected with CONVID-19. I'm an employee with NCDMV (Raleigh Window @ Headquarters), which means I deal face to face with customers daily (i.e. handling money, contaminated documents, sick children, etc.). I also am a care taker for my mom, who by the way worked for the State of NC over 45 years. And, was recently hospitalized, due suspected heart issues.</p> <p>Why now? And, why not garnish my wages?</p> <p>The representative I spoke with, simply stated "...we could've garnished your wages or take the money from your account...we chose to take the money from your account..." And, then she asked me if I would like to set up a payment plan? Question: why would I do that if the balance owed was taken from my account? In addition, the NC Revenue rep. stated "I had not filed my taxes for 2015". Question: then how do they justify the amount taken/owed?</p>

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			Please, help us get our savings back & a payment plan can be arranged. The thought of having nothing to fall back on, after my paycheck pays all of our bills...is overwhelming!!! Especially, NOW!
03/28/2020 06:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Martin Wilcox	I hope you will 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 act 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 we cannot afford not to.
03/28/2020 06:05 PM	Health Care Working Group	Lynn Andtews	I am very disappointed the Federal government has not done more to help during this pandemic. We are rationing test kits and PPE. That's inexcusable. We've known for months this was coming. The first thing NC needs to do is expand Medicaid. Then, we need to shore up unemployment and expand SNAP & WIC benefits. Corporations can wait for help. Sick and hungry people cannot.
03/28/2020 06:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Angela Strain	Please allow vote by mail in November as a public health measure.
03/28/2020 06:34 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Tom Murdock	<p>North Carolina has an opportunity to keep the COVID-19 crisis from ruining the state. The health and economic security of our citizens is key. Tying the Federal support into state surpluses should help us, and particularly the poor and unemployed get through this.</p> <p>An important extension of this effort would be to pass Medicaid Expansion so that underlying medical issues are addressed so that the poor and uninsured do not die unnecessarily. This is the time to pull together.</p>
03/28/2020 06:58 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Shel Anderson	I am concerned that legislation does not seem to be forthcoming to support real mom & pop business in NC. We need good and easily accessible unemployment insurance, of course, but we also need an agency which can help truly small business get the help they need. Not everyone can manage threading through complex agency requirements, you know.
03/28/2020 07:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Pamela Culp	<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>

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			<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>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>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. As North Carolinians are healthy so will be our economic recovery. Thank you.</p>
03/28/2020 07:19 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Health Vincent Mc Millian	Help FIGHT COVID19
03/28/2020 07:21 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Nancy Brown	<p>For more of the disadvantage communities, it would be beneficial to have in place grants or funding to provide assistance, awareness, and training on how to stop the spread of COVID-19 and to mitigate Domestic Violence during these trying times. I'm willing to volunteer and do my part. Please keep me updated on how to obtain such resources if any. Thanks!</p> <p>Sincerely, Nancy Brown</p>
03/28/2020 08:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Anne Cassebaum	<p>I am asking you to respond to the COVID-19 crisis that ensures all people in this state are protected.</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 keep them feed and secure.</p> <p>We need to make sure everyone has food on the table, a safe shelter and freedom to visit doctors without fear of not having enough money or not being U.S. citizens.. What will you do to protect people in this crisis?</p>
03/28/2020 08:03 PM	Continuity of State	Lyndsey Allen	Please allow for mail in voting for the general election in November. We still very well may

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		be dealing with COVID-19 and it would be dangerous to have people in such close quarters.
03/28/2020 08:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ms. claire millar	I think that mail in ballots would be the safest way to handle the upcoming elections. Who knows how long this virus will last?
03/28/2020 08:09 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Stan Gilliam	Promote more TESTING and the wearing of MASKS.
03/28/2020 08:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MS. Marjorie Scheer	It is essential that everyone in our state have the right to vote in the November election and this means allowing ANYONE the opportunity to mail in ballots. Many of us are vulnerable health wise. We have no idea what November will bring. We must prepare and be ready with absentee ballots for anyone who deems it necessary to protect his her health to vote in that manner. Thanks.
03/28/2020 08:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Janice Sears	Please focus on supporting our citizens with economic aid, medical support, and safety.
03/28/2020 08:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Board Member-NCRPA Brian Silva	Licensed Firearms and Ammunition Dealers need to be deemed an essential business. This was overlooked by the executive branch in the Governors Executive Order. Many citizens in Wake County can not purchase handguns because the Sheriff will not process purchase permits. This prevents those who did not have a purchase permit prior to the Sheriff's order from legally obtaining a handgun. This needs to be corrected through legislation or it is clearly a violation of the 2nd Amendment and the NC Constitution. The elimination of the redundant purchase permit would resolve this issue, at least during a state of emergency. Concealed Carry Permits are not being processed because there is not an exception to the fingerprint requirement. The fingerprint requirement should be suspended during a state of emergency. This clause is preventing permits including emergency order permits from being issued.
03/28/2020 08:41 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Ann Taft	We need mailing in voting state-wide as we do not know how long this crisis will last,
03/28/2020 08:59 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Joseph Kimmel	So far our governor has been like a few other governors and on top of by staying ahead of the curve. Please support him in all that he asks of you. Why can't we move some personnel to the hardest hit areas in the state?
03/28/2020 09:07 PM	Education Working Group	Director Charlesanna White	All childcare in North Carolina could benefit from some type of financial help. We are facing the decision on if we must close solely on the tremendous drop in children we care

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			for. Please consider Childcare workers as essential and back us up.
03/28/2020 09:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joshua Zaslow	While I am concerned that certain parties may use COVID-19 as an excuse to delay or cancel elections, I am encouraged to see that the Continuity of Sate Operations Working Group has been formed. I look forward to placing my vote, whether by mail or in person in November. Given the current state of politics, the nation, and the postal service, this may be no small feat. Please start planning now to ensure that fair elections happen in November!
03/28/2020 09:10 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Amanda Mckee	Please allow mail voting!
03/28/2020 09:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Erich Lieth	I strongly support the implementation of mail-in voting. With proper methodology the threat of fraud is very low, and much lower than the threat of vote suppression for individuals who cannot go to the polls. The current pandemic, which could continue or happen afresh at any time, is an incredibly compelling demonstration of how vital voting by mail is.
03/28/2020 09:16 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. & Mrs. William Lyles	<p>Dear House Select Committee on COVID-19</p> <p>Thank you for all the work you do on behalf of the people, business, and institutions of our great state. I strongly urge you to do diligence to ensure that those individuals and state entities most affected by the impact of this virus, will receive your needed support now and for future needs.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mr. & Mrs. W. H. Lyles</p>
03/28/2020 09:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	November election Sarah Siegel	Please plan to have the November election conducted by mail, it is the best easy to ensure the integrity of the election.
03/28/2020 09:47 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Carrie Grubbs	As principal of a private school that receives the Opportunity Scholarship, please waive testing requirements for this year as well as school year length requirements. It is looking even more likely that we will not be able to fulfill these requirements. Also, we have students that have waited all year to take driver's education and now they have no way to get even a permit. This is going to greatly disadvantage them when they need to get jobs this summer. Please follow the example of other states and allow at least a temporary provision for parents to teach their children to drive and the students to be able to take driver's exams at local dmv offices. Thank you very much for your help.
03/28/2020 09:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dawn	Please make provisions for mail in voting for the general election in November. This serves the public interest and would be a "best practice" for the health and safety of all.
03/28/2020 09:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Ms. Maria Mangano	I would like to request that North Carolina change from in-person voting to vote by mail to ensure all eligible voters can vote and to keep poll workers and volunteers safe during the current and potential future epidemics. It is critical that elections take place despite the current epidemic, and vote by mail, adopted in other places, is a reasonable way of

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		ensuring that such elections take place.
03/28/2020 09:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Donna Mashburn	I urge the North Carolina General Assembly to deny the 'vote by mail' for the 2020 election or any other election. Our votes must be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and vote fraud. This method is not secure and would compromise the integrity of an honest and fair vote. Vote by mail is not acceptable and should never be allowed an American elections.
03/28/2020 10:04 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Lynn Spees	<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 providing 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>Thank you for your attention to my comments.</p>
03/28/2020 10:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Nancy Brown	We the people are having problems out here and need your attention NOW. There are the poor, the middle class and the wealthy. We all need equal voice. We count, and we vote.
03/28/2020 10:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joshua Zaslow	While I am concerned that certain parties may use COVID-19 as an excuse to delay or cancel elections, I am encouraged to see that the Continuity of Sate Operations Working Group has been formed. I look forward to placing my vote, whether by mail or in person in November. Given the current state of politics, the nation, and the postal service, this may be no small feat. Please start planning now to ensure that fair elections happen in November!
03/28/2020 11:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Justine Wayne	Please offer mail in voting for November election! Many might still be at home or recovering & shouldn't be disenfranchised.
03/28/2020 11:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Barbara Robertson	The State government needs to begin planning for the possibility of mail-in voting now, so that if COVID-19 keeps people away from making a physical presence at the polls, we will ALL be able to vote by mail.
03/28/2020 11:25 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Cheryl McGraw	You must follow the most stringent scientifically based public health measures to stop the coronavirus pandemic.
03/28/2020 11:28 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Mrs. Cheryl McGraw	<p>Focus on people first</p> <p>Support public institutions and infrastructure</p> <p>Trust that we will have a strong economy by stopping the pandemic first</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Public Safety) Working Group		
03/28/2020 11:50 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Bobby Padgett II	<p>In 55 of North Carolina's 100 counties, the local school system is the largest employer. Staff in the schools in all districts, especially hourly personnel, must be kept employed and receiving a regular pay check to keep the economic engines of their counties going.</p> <p>Should COVID-19 lead to a recession or worse, the state should tap its Rainy Day Fund to hold schools harmless. State Budgets since 2010 have been balanced out of the paychecks of teachers (loss of masters pay, loss of mentor pay, loss of longevity, replacing the 30 step pay scale with one with 10 and 5 year wage freezes). Teacher paychecks on average are nearly 20% behind in inflation adjusted buying power compared to same experience step from 2008. Combine that with increased out of pocket purchases for classroom items because of cuts to supplies, loss of funding due to charter and voucher expansion, and there is no way teachers of this state can stand for another freeze or cut. The switch to virtual learning may well have to become permanent because NC will not be left with enough quality teachers to fill our classrooms.</p> <p>In summary, keep all school system employees employed and receiving a paycheck until the schools are reopened for business.</p>
03/28/2020 11:59 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. (Mr.) Tika Bordelon	<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>
03/29/2020 12:04 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Vicki Parker	<p>It seems that there are designs for masks and ventilator parts made on 3D printers. Can the libraries and universities that often have these 3D printers allow access to those who could be making masks and ventilator parts for health care teams?</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</p>

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03/29/2020 12:27 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Elaine Nell	<p>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>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, 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> <p>Thank you,</p>
03/29/2020 12:29 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Blanche Rayford	<p>Put the people of North Carolina FIRST in All Financial matters regarding Covid-19. Not corporations, or any other type of business which gives more money to the CEO or other employees who make more money than the hourly employees!</p>
03/29/2020 03:35 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Riza Jenkins	<p>Mail in voting is an essential form of voter participation that we need to add based on current situation that we are in. Please do what is right and the best decision for our state and add in mail in voting.</p>
03/29/2020 03:53 AM	Education Working Group	Joyce Myers	<p>On March 16 NCDHHS issued stricter guidelines for child care centers to help minimize the risk of exposure to both staff and children. It states: *Only staff needed to maintain ratio compliance should be inside the classrooms. Facilities should restrict teachers to one classroom with one group of children and should not use "floater" teachers. This is in order to reduce the number of people coming in and out of the classrooms.</p> <p>Tender Care CDC has been approved by our state consultant Kimberly Crane to do the following:</p> <p>Two teachers can serve breakfast and have 5 classrooms of children in the same room eating breakfast together in our older classes (they will be sitting up to 8 at the table at one time from various classrooms) and two teacher in the younger classrooms overlapping three classrooms. These children will engage with each other prior to breaking</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>out into their own classrooms. Those teachers will be in a classroom for the day also. You have now taken the risk of cross contaminating 5 classrooms on one side of the building and 3 on the other if someone were to be sick. Does that not contradict what Governor Roy Cooper has asked us to do?</p> <p>We have three daycare teachers at the facility with children, myself included. We were told we can go in the classrooms to visit our children on our break. I can go into two rooms, another teacher can go in two rooms, and the third can go in one room. There again, we've taken the risk of cross contaminating 5 classrooms not counting our own classrooms. Does that not defeat the extra precautions that we are "supposed" to be taking?</p> <p>We are not supposed to have "floater" teachers, but we were told that someone can cook, go in the Nursery classroom, then go up to the school age room (where we will combine 3-12 year olds from about 4:30 till 6). There again, how are we taking extra precautions to keep our children safe?</p> <p>If this is the way we are going to do things, we are tricking society to think we are taking extra precautions to keep their children safe.</p> <p>Some people believe this whole Covid 19 is being overhyped by the media while others think we are all doomed. I believe to listen with those who are educated in this field, as I am not. I am a policy follower, not just during this epidemic, but always. I don't always agree with rules, but it's my duty to adhere to them, just as it is your duty to uphold these new laws. It has been stated "we will never know if we did too much to prevent the spread of this terrible virus, but we will know if we did too little. "</p> <p>Let me state I want to work. I want to help those in the front lines. What I want most of all though is to TRULY do the best I can do to keep these children safe, mine included. I feel we should be made to follow the new policies during this epidemic. They were voted on by a board, and agree with them or not, it's the new law for now. It is your responsibility to enforce those rules, not help find loopholes around them.</p> <p>Governor Roy Cooper stated in a press conference Friday March 27th, that if rules and stipulations conflict, adhere to the stricter guidelines. (This was in general and not specifically to childcare centers, but everyone as a whole) Who do we listen to? Our state consultant or the governor and those who built the guidelines for this?</p> <p>I urge you to fix this matter. One classroom. One group of children. That's what society thinks they are getting. That is what Governor Roy Cooper and the board who wrote these rules thinks society is getting. Let's give it to them. Help me and others in centers all over the state keep these children safe. You don't have to agree with the decisions made by the board that elected these rules, but it is our duty to uphold them!</p>
03/29/2020 05:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Ms. Karin Abell	Please allow for a vote by mail option by November 2020 that includes drop off of ballots at election sites. Voters would have more time to study long ballots and would not have to face the health risks of voting in person.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
03/29/2020 06:45 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. david tayloe	we need an organized system for hospitals to obtain ventilators, other equipment if the hospitals are overloaded with COVID-19 patients.
03/29/2020 07:02 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Robert Dickens	Please allow vote by mail
03/29/2020 07:24 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Bonnie McCarthy	<p>I support this important amendment to our chief state elections official emergency powers and I also favor North Carolina's election director having authority to take swift and immediate action if necessary during the coronavirus crisis.</p> <p>I hope this is the first of. Many actions state government will take to benefit voters most impacted by the virus.</p>
03/29/2020 08:04 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Patricia Blakley	I think vote by mail BAD idea.
03/29/2020 08:07 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Mary Babcock	<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> <p>Thank you, Mary Babcock</p>
03/29/2020 08:12 AM	Health Care Working Group	Tikki Foy	<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>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			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.
03/29/2020 08:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Tikki Foy	<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>
03/29/2020 08:18 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Jennifer Collins	<p>To members of the Health Care Working Group of the COVI-19 special committee: Thank you for everything you are doing to serve North Carolina during this uncertain time. As a volunteer with the American Heart Association, I am sending recommendations for your committee to consider as you work to strengthen our response to this virus. Individuals with cardiovascular disease are at higher risk of adverse health outcomes from COVID-19.</p> <p>Please continue to expand access to and availability of telemedicine services during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that patients can easily access health care expertise while practicing safe social distancing.</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment to improve the health of North Carolinians during this difficult time. Stay well!</p> <p>Sincerely, Jennifer Collins</p>
03/29/2020 08:38 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Kathleen Henig	The ability to Vote by mail must be enacted to protect our election in November.
03/29/2020 08:41 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms R.A. Patton	To determine the severity and length of the COVID-19 Pandemic each North Carolinian should be tested. The "quarantine" should continue until we have passed the end of the crisis. I support Governor Roy Cooper's directives. Our people are our ONLY resource, nothing else matters. Stay out of churches on Easter.
03/29/2020 08:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rick Runyan	Please allow mail-in voting for the November elections.

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03/29/2020 08:49 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. William Hunter	Focus on people first. Go back to reasonable unemployment benefits.
03/29/2020 08:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mail in voting Ann Rauchbach	I urge the GA to allow mail in voting. It allows for all eligible voters in NC equal opportunity to vote . It is known to work fairly.
03/29/2020 09:25 AM	Education Working Group	Healthcare advocate Tera Long	We need Medicare for All NOW! Everyone deserves to have healthcare in the USA, not jut the people lucky enough to work from home. Please help.
03/29/2020 09:42 AM	Health Care Working Group	Rev Steve Hickle	Poor people are at incredible risk! Please e land Medicaid now, reopen rural hospitals that have closed. The funds are waiting, health care cannot wait!
03/29/2020 09:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Lee Nackman	<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>
03/29/2020 10:07 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Wendy Tiner	Voting is our civic duty. Our votes should be protected against criminal activity, including ballot manipulation and voter fraud. Support Voter ID and make it possible for every citizen to get it
03/29/2020 10:13 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote by mail Jaime Morris	We need to institute vote by mail for the November election. We need to protect our population and ensure fair access to the polls.
03/29/2020 10:23 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Judith Porter	Please do all you can to support the health and well being of ALL our people, not just billionaires and greedy corporations such as insurance and drug companies..
03/29/2020 10:29 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Zachary Kopkin	<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</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future.</p> <p>People in jails and prisons also must be kept safe from COVID-19 to prevent rapid spread. The following steps are crucial to keeping them and our communities safe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Commuting sentences for older and vulnerable citizens with compromised immune systems, anyone who is within 12 months of release from their active sentence, and to anyone currently being held on a technical violation of probation or parole. - Expediting mass release of those permanently disabled, geriatric or terminally ill through the Department of Public Safety's Home Leave program and Transition Services. - Expediting the review of people eligible for parole, particularly those over 65 years of age. <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>
03/29/2020 10:42 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Andrea Kurtz	<p>I work at United Way in Forsythe County, this crisis has hit low and moderate income working people so hard, so fast, the human services can't keep up with the calls. We need relief focused on direct aid to low and moderate income so they can maintain their housing, health care access to food. We also financial help for the human services who are overwhelmed by the class for help with basic needs for food , housing and health care.</p>
03/29/2020 11:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Anne Craig	<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>
03/29/2020 11:42 AM	Health Care Working Group	Sara Smith	<p>Dear Health Care Working Group Members,</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>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<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>
03/29/2020 11:53 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Deborah Grimes	Please allow for distance/absentee ballot voting. We don't know how long the corona virus will be a factor, but even if not for that, many residents need to be able to vote without leaving their home. Thank you for your consideration.
03/29/2020 11:57 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Patti Mason	Only funding for DIRECT COVID-19 issues should be allowed at this point - no tangential items. Stay focused. Also, funding from Feds to the State for Hurricane Flo need to be released to the Counties immediately and out of the State holdings so execution of those funds could help as well.
03/29/2020 12:12 PM	Education Working Group	Catherine Netter	As a future measure to prevent germs floating in the air, would it be possible to place wall mounted Lysol dispensers that releases Lysol Spray in the air, on the hour, in public schools, hospitals, nursing homes, jails, prisons, etc. I'm certain research would have to be done to make sure the spray doesn't cause allergic reactions harmful to anyone, but we need to consider a measure moving forward that protects closed environments.
03/29/2020 12:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Katherine Seligmann	I would strongly support the implementation of voting by mail in order to mitigate the problem of congregation at the polls. It has been successful in other states and the concern for fraud is a scare tactic. It is important to increase access to voting.
03/29/2020 12:39 PM	Health Care Working Group	Julie Daniel-Yount	I am IN FAVOR of mail in voting for 2020. Anything less should be criminal and is absolutely a health risk should this pandemic persist.
03/29/2020 12:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Patrick Conway	It is critical that the North Carolina legislature act now to accommodate the support that the Federal Government is willing to provide the unemployed, particularly independent contractors and gig workers, during the current emergency. Please act to support the people of North Carolina at this critical point in history. Bring the legislature back into session and pass a set of proposals to reform the unemployment-insurance system: it is not only good economic policy, but it is also an immediate benefit to our citizens suffering from the shut-down.
03/29/2020 12:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote by mail Jake Carswell	<p>All people should be allowed to vote regardless of their status at the time of the election. This means continuing to allow all citizens the opportunity to vote by mail. Taking away this action does nothing but hinder the ability for democracy to proceed the way it was intended in our country!</p> <p>Sincerely, A concerned college student</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
03/29/2020 01:12 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Roberta Waddle	I ask the committee to put people first - do everything you can to get supplies for health care workers and first responders. Do what is necessary to keep all workers as safe as possible. Adopt policies that provide the best sustainable options to keep all North Carolina residents safe. Adopt policies that provide public programs that support all North Carolina workers and their families to cushion the economic stress the virus is causing. Please look to improving the unemployment insurance, providing paid sick leave, helping all NC families put food on the table.
03/29/2020 01:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Sharron Parker	We really need mail-in voting to be sure everyone can exercise their right to vote during this time of many unknowns.
03/29/2020 01:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Ann Prince	I am writing to strongly support mail-in voting for the general election. Otherwise, the public is essentially being denied the right to safe access to voting. Very few people and perhaps especially those over age 60 are likely to risk COVID-19 exposure by voting under standard polling place operations. Lots of face-to-face contact, using tables and implements used by others, and being in a place or in lines where maintaining social distancing is impossible will inhibit participation in our democracy. It is time for NC to ensure access to the full right to vote.
03/29/2020 02:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ms Madeline Sunshine	I'm in favor of voting by mail in the November elections. I think everyone should support the effort to do so in North Carolina in an effort to preserve our democracy here in the state and in the White House. Thank you.
03/29/2020 02:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Jill Blumenthal	<p>First, thank you for all the members of this committee are doing in service to our state.</p> <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. Please support the nonprofit sector as much as possible, since these organizations take the lead in supporting our most vulnerable citizens.</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>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>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<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. Please take advantage of the Federal government's offer to open up Medicaid access for all of our uninsured citizens.</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>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>
03/29/2020 02:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sophie Suberman	Please allow mail in voting for November.
03/29/2020 02:21 PM	Health Care Working Group	Rosemary Waldorf	Please allow voting by mail this November
03/29/2020 02:24 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Gregory Garneau	It is time to enact Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act.
03/29/2020 02:55 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Dolores Marriott	I think given the uncertainty of the times we need to make voting by mail accessible for the November 2020 election
03/29/2020 02:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ms sally maslansky	Mail-in vote in November!

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
03/29/2020 02:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Sally Buchanan	Other states (including CA) where I have resided routinely used mail in ballots without any indication of voter fraud. It allowed completion of the ballot in quiet privacy of your home. In fact, I believe every resident was automatically mailed a ballot. What is the problem with mail in ballots?
03/29/2020 03:00 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Eric Thomas	<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, the citizens of North Carolina, need for you to ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what they need to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future. This will include getting a robust testing program in place. We should make sure that the most disenfranchised of us get access to all available medical treatment. This will probably mean extending medical care to everyone, regardless of their ability to pay. This includes our homeless and immigrant populations who are generally left behind. To leave out any group is to ensure we will have a population of "Typhoid Mary's" walking around in our midst!</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>