

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
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>
03/29/2020 03:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Helen Wolfson	<p>Yesterday I submitted comments to the Health Care subgroup. They included comments similar to these on the economic situation, but I wanted to submit them to you separately...</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> <p>As you address the economic situation, I urge you to take care of people who have no work, people whose work and wages are at risk, and people 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. We must extend this care to everyone, including all marginalized communities like undocumented immigrants and the homeless. These measure are all not only beneficial to those who are hardest hit by the economic situation — they benefit all of us. We must work as a unified society to combat this virus. If we fail to take care of some members of society, we will all suffer the consequences.</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>
03/29/2020 03:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Lue Simopoulos	<p>This is a DEMOCRACY!!</p> <p>Please support VOTER TURN-OUT by enacting MAIL-IN VOTING during this difficult time!!!</p>

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03/29/2020 03:08 PM	Economic Support 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 protect us all from the financial fallout from this pandemic. This should include extending paid sick-leave to every working citizen. Unemployment insurance should be extended to everybody who loses their jobs because of this disaster. Enhanced welfare benefits should be extended to all of our marginalized population who will have even a worse time feeding and caring for themselves than normal. In addition to the poor who generally receive these welfare benefits, we should include both the homeless and undocumented immigrants. To leave these folks out of the equation forces them to violate any Stay-at-Home order that might be in place in order to simply survive.</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 03:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Gerald Donaldson	Mail ballot voting is imperative for NC. Please disregard the fake opposition comments being filed by Republicans – who want to suppress the vote – and bots. Thank you
03/29/2020 03:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Claudia Brent	I am very concerned about access to our elections during the COVID-19 epidemic and more generally. I'd like to see a universal vote-by-mail process put in place this year. While it would take longer to count the votes, everyone could feel safe about the process. An additional benefit would be the paper trail that would ensure the integrity of the vote. Please consider universal voting-by- mail for these 2020 elections!
03/29/2020 04:01 PM	Health Care Working Group	help us vote Elaine Tobin	I am in the group most vulnerable to the virus (old and with heart disease). I need to be able to vote by mail, as do many others. For the safety of our communities everyone should have this opportunity!
03/29/2020 04:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Janice Woychik	Please allow mail in voting for the coming elections.
03/29/2020 04:04 PM	Health Care Working Group	professor Ann Matthyse	I hope that the legislature will set a good example by holding their meetings via zoom or other remote option for the remainder of the COVID-19 pandemic. How can you expect citizens to abide by rules to reduce the spread of the virus, if our leaders do not abide by them? In addition, if many of you should contract infections, that would leave the state in a difficult situation without the leadership it needs. So for your sake and for our sake please don't meet in person. Thank you.
03/29/2020 04:04 PM	Continuity of State	Mr. Robert Hellwig	Graig, It seems to me that voting this November is going to be problematic at best.

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Mail-in ballots is a good way for NC to guarantee that the greatest number of people get to have their choices counted.
03/29/2020 04:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	julia gibson	I support mail-in voting in North Carolina! Nothing is more democratic than allowing voters to vote!!!!
03/29/2020 04:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Sonna Loewenthal	Please, please start making provisions now for mail-in voting this November. Decisions should be made now so that enough public education can happen to make this election a fair and open one. Thank you.
03/29/2020 04:37 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Mary Short	<p>https://townhall.com/columnists/kevinmccullough/2020/03/29/hydroxychloroquine-help-is-on-the-way-n2565926</p> <p>Please RESCIND: http://www.ncbop.org/LawsRules/COVID19DrugPreservationRule21NCAC46.1819.pdf</p> <p>I ask you to move quickly to allow M.D./Nurse/EMS, etc., front line health care/police-fire to use hydroxycloquine w/ZPAC as a preventative. I suspect the CDC and FDA will issue guidance today, 3/29/2020.</p> <p>It's shocking to me that you ever allowed this "rule" to happen ... this is absolute proof that the NCGA has given away its power to the Secretary! Take it back.</p>
03/29/2020 04:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Philip Cook	I hope you make it possible for all of us to vote by mail in November
03/29/2020 05:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. William Murray	Please enable voting by mail in.
03/29/2020 05:22 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Janet Flowers	I strongly urge you to make arrangements for people to be able to vote by mail. Given the uncertainty regarding the virus and the need to ensure that everyone has easy access to their voting rights, this is now an imperative. Thank you for considering the need for the citizens of this state to exercise their right to vote.
03/29/2020 05:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Ms Carolyn White	I am requesting that you allow mail in voting for everybody for the Nov election as well as early voting. We have no idea how COVID-19 will continue to impact our lives, but we need to take steps now to safeguard our elections and make sure that everyone can safely vot.

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
03/29/2020 05:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Amanda Kyser	I support Voting by Mail!
03/29/2020 05:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote By Mail Helen Stein	I am writing to state my support for voting by mail. Given the current public health crisis and existing barriers to voting in our state, voting by mail is likely to motivate more citizens to vote than any other method I can think of.
03/29/2020 07:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Covid 19 Randy Bassham	Please realize the importance of this we are All going through. Please remember the consequences through history when the Haves have turned their backs on the Have Nots.
03/29/2020 07:43 PM	Education Working Group	Cora Harrison	Please consider this idea. It gives more flexibility to the voter and allows more Americans to submit their vote.
03/29/2020 07:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Yvonne Moody	I'm concerned about the safety of mail-in voting. What safeguards are available to prevent fraud?
03/29/2020 08:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Martha Svoboda	I am writing IN SUPPORT OF mail-in voting provisions that will enable the fundamental constitutional right of "one person, one vote" in this time of the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. Dr. Anthony Fauci has stated that the virus could cycle back in the fall. The NC General Assembly will be endangering the lives of NC citizens (and poll workers) who merely want to exercise the right to vote in November if you do not provide for the capability for mail-in voting in this upcoming election. Although I am disturbed by the egregious absentee-ballot harvesting by the NC GOP in the 2018 NC District 9 U.S. House election, I am extremely confident that intelligent NC assembly members of great integrity can find a way to make mail-in voting work in our great state!
03/29/2020 08:59 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Cheryl McGraw	<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</p>

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			<p>food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to.</p> <p>Your leadership on the COVID-19 response in North Carolina is critical to containing the spread of this novel virus and protecting everyone's health.</p> <p>I hope you will propose bold policies and investments that make sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies to combat this virus safely, that broaden access to free testing and treatment, and that allow everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home from work without loss of income and while maintaining their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we need to make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. This means we need to close the coverage gap, provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status, and make sure we are driving resources and support to those people most excluded historically in our policy response.</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 09:28 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dino Mangano	I am requesting that NC 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.
03/29/2020 09:32 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Professor Mai Nguyen	<p>"State and Local Government Must Help North Carolinians Stay Home"</p> <p>Dear Lawmakers,</p>

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			<p>Stay at home. It sounds simple enough. But for many North Carolinians, it will be hard to comply with Governor Cooper's May 30th "stay-at-home" order unless state and local government take action to ensure they have homes to stay in.</p> <p>Before COVID-19 reached North Carolina, renters and homeowners were already experiencing housing instability and unaffordability. US Census estimates show that 1 in 5 homeowners and half of all renters across the state are housing cost-burdened, spending 30% or more of their monthly income on mortgage payments or rent. Homelessness is also major issue affecting North Carolina, with more than 9,000 people experiencing homelessness in 2019 according to the NC Coalition to end Homelessness.</p> <p>As businesses begin to close and reduce operations due to the stay-at-home order, layoffs and reduced salaries will limit North Carolinians ability to afford their mortgage and rent. The economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic will also ripple through other parts of life, as housing expenses may force families to live paycheck to paycheck and dip into their savings to stock up on food, medicine, and other necessities.</p> <p>The Federal \$2.2 trillion stimulus package will help, but likely not enough to stabilize housing across the state. Many forecasts predict widespread foreclosures, increasing unemployment and underemployment, rising poverty, and – if the pandemic lingers – an economic downturn worse than the Great Recession.</p> <p>The extent of the COVID-19 pandemic will indeed require state and local government action. One advantage North Carolina has over other states is past experience with disasters. Much of Eastern North Carolina has yet to recover from the destruction caused by Hurricanes Matthew, Florence, and Dorian. Thousands of families were displaced from their homes, neighborhoods, and support networks by these hurricanes. These recent disasters have taught North Carolina that the hardest hit communities are also those that are the most socially and physically vulnerable.</p> <p>As the COVID-19 crisis worsens, state and local government must apply lessons from disaster preparedness and mitigation to this current threat and take five broad steps to stabilize housing:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The State should institute a moratorium on evictions and foreclosures for the duration of the State of Emergency and an additional 60 days. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • On March 16th the NC Supreme Court paused eviction and foreclosure hearings for 30 days to mitigate the spread of COVID-19, however, this was motivated by concerns about overcrowded courtrooms, not about keeping families in stable housing. Families should not be evicted from their homes during this crisis. • There is currently a Federal moratoria on Federal Housing Authority, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac mortgages, however, there are other mortgages not covered by the moratoria, including homes on personal property, such as mobile homes. The state should announce a moratoria on foreclosures on all mortgages.

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			<p>2. Increase awareness of federal and private housing aid programs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State should also disseminate information about existing mortgage forbearance programs, which temporarily suspend or reduce required loan payments, for “qualified buyers” such as those from Ally Bank, Bank of America, CitiBank, Quicken Loans, Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac. The State could set up a mortgage counseling hotline and website in order to provide technical assistance to homeowners. <p>3. Halt utilities shut off for non-payment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State should impose a statewide moratorium on water, electric, gas, and oil shutoffs during the period of the State of Emergency and an additional 60 days. Also, late fees and interest should be waived during this period. While some utility companies have notified clients that they will not shut off utilities for non-payment during this crisis, it is unclear how long this will last. <p>4. Additional support for the homeless is needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The State must eliminate homelessness during this epidemic at all cost. Homeless shelters are in need of additional operational support and shelter that is in compliance with public health recommendations for social distancing and sanitation. The State can help to identify temporary shelters for the homeless, such as motels and hotels, that are not currently in use. Providing the homeless with safe, sanitary, and private shelters will mitigate the spread of COVID-19. <p>5. Financial assistance to public and assisted housing providers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Local and State governments should provide emergency financial assistance to local public housing agencies that administer housing assistance. If residents are unable to pay their rents during this crisis period due to lost wages or unemployment, housing providers will lose revenue for operational expenses and necessary maintenance and repair will be deferred. Many public housing developments, such as McDougal Terrace in Durham, already have deferred maintenance due to a lack of sufficient funds and will fall into further disrepair if rent revenues decline even further. <p>Keeping families in safe and stable housing is central to Governor Cooper’s stay-at-home order. Swift and decisive actions by state elected officials is needed to address this once-in-a-lifetime public health and economic crisis. Just as the stay-at-home order can help stop the spread of COVID-19 and lessen its impact on the state, so too can safe and stable housing.</p> <p>Feel free to contact me if you have any questions: Mai Nguyen, Associate Professor of City & Regional Planning, mai@unc.edu</p>
03/29/2020 09:50 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Mr. Michael Merenstein	In order to protect public health and contain COVID-19 our state must now investment sufficiently in our healthcare, healthcare workforce and provide supports to facilitate

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>healthy choices.</p> <p>I urge you to prioritize public health and safety above all other policy concerns in this crisis as a demonstration that we value human life. Top concerns must be to ensure that sufficient investments are made to fully protect and supply healthcare professionals while they combat this virus and to provide free testing and treatment for all persons to contain the virus spread and eliminate barriers to lifesaving treatment. Additionally, policies must mandate social distancing to flatten the infection curve. Finally, resources must be made available to allow people stay home from work without loss of income and otherwise maintain their basic needs.</p> <p>We know that to protect the public's health we must make sure our healthcare system serves everyone. Accordingly, we must provide access to care for all people regardless of immigration status and must drive resources and support to those historically excluded people in our policy response.</p>
03/29/2020 09:59 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Mildred Brown	Testing for private and public schools should be waived for this year.
03/29/2020 10:22 PM	Health Care Working Group	C Overholt	We need to take care of the fragile members of our communities so that they have the opportunity to live as close to a normal life as possible.
03/30/2020 07:47 AM	Health Care Working Group	Sandra Broadwater	It's time to expand Medicaid. Families are suffering for lack of Medicaid coverage in NC. We are better than that.
03/30/2020 08:06 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Molly Diamond	I am strongly in favor of allowing mail in ballots for the general election in fall 2020. With so many unknowns with how COVID-19 will be impacting our state and country in the next few months, I think it is very important to plan ahead to ensure that each person in the state is allowed their constitutional right to vote. Mail in ballots will allow access for everyone in the state to practice this right.
03/30/2020 08:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Irene Skowronek	I am writing to express my strong support for vote by mail. We absolutely need a vote-by-mail contingency plan for the November elections. I hope that you can work to uphold the integrity of our elections in NC by working to make this happen. Thank you!
03/30/2020 08:12 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Andrew Lobonc	My name is Dr. Andrew Lobonc, I am an anesthesiologist here in Chapel Hill. I appreciate all of the work that everyone is doing during this difficult time. I am reaching out about a specific concern of mine in regards to what some other states are doing while trying to mobilize health care. Scope of practice has come up in several other states and I am reaching out to say that I do not think this is the time to be talking about this. While we need to be as prepared as possible for what is coming our way, we should not do it on a whim without significant discussion. Anesthesiology works best with physician led care, which includes the care team model of physician oversight of nurse anesthetists. This is a safe model that allows patients to have the highest quality care. We should not allow patients to have care without the oversight of a physician, and it has been demonstrated that there really is not a need for independent practice of nurse anesthetists. The American Society of Anesthesiology continues to feel this way even in this changing time, and we should continue to provide our patients the highest quality care we can, which is physician

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			led care. Thank you for your time.
03/30/2020 09:06 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Catherine Parham	I want to express my strong support to have mail in voting for elections, to ensure that we all can vote come November.
03/30/2020 09:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		*Any* alternative to voting by mail would, given what's happening, be utterly irresponsible.
03/30/2020 09:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Gregory Carswell	Due to the COVID-19 outbreak, I am requesting that North Carolina change from in-person voting to allow 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. I ask that North Carolina move to a vote-by-mail system similar to the vote-by-mail systems that other states have used successfully for some time.
			It is important that all NC citizens eligible to vote can do so safely, as well as keep election officials safe in this year's elections.
03/30/2020 09:45 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Rosena Patterson	I am a high school teacher who teach students with disabilities (SWD). Due to the tasks that I currently have of checking in with students on my caseload, communicating with my Math PLC weekly, attending virtual staff meeting regularly, I feel that adding work days in June and August would result in burnout. Because we don't know how long this pandemic will be around, I disagree with that idea. There will be students who may face the pandemic within their households and community-wide and I don't think they will have a sense of normalcy until later. A Request of this magnitude may be detrimental to the students' mental and emotional health. Our students need time to adjust and re-adjust. I also think that teachers will need time to simply, rest, and document how their academic lessons were received, check and respond to emails, and assure themselves and powers-at-be that we have met the expectations of our administrators and district level authorities,
03/30/2020 09:52 AM	Health Care Working Group	Marcella Congdon	Perhaps it will not be needed, but it makes good sense to make voting by mail or electronically legal before it's needed; though there are some legislature voters/votes we might like to disallow, somebody voted them in. Endangering our elected officers by making them congregate to vote makes no sense; the public has access to absentee ballots, why can't legislators?
03/30/2020 10:04 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Norman Loewenthal	In view of the exceptional circumstances of the coronavirus pandemic it is essential that there be an opportunity for mail-in ballots for this November's election.
03/30/2020 10:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Dr. Teme Levbarg	Administrative Rule on Executive Director Emergency Powers, 08 NCAC 01 .0106 This is a wise and essential rule that fits the needs of our current crisis while assuring access to voting and still keeping the voting process safe and secure. We need to be able to vote by mail, in times like these, where we are living a disaster due to a disease. Please support

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	Group		this option.
03/30/2020 10:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patty Courtright	Given the many uncertainties of the effects of COVID-19 on our state, I am asking that you please formulate a plan for mail-in ballots statewide during our November 2020 election. Voting is our fundamental responsibility and right, and it is a long-held privilege that many people in other countries envy. Ideally (for many reasons), we won't need this option in November, but it is crucial that the leaders of North Carolina be proactive in ensuring that all citizens in our state have the ability to vote for our legislative, judicial and executive leadership. That is one of your primary responsibilities to the people of North Carolina, and I appreciate the opportunity to submit comments. Thank you.
03/30/2020 10:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Phillips	I strongly support setting up voting by mail and continuing the practice after the danger of Covid-19 has passed.
03/30/2020 10:47 AM	Health Care Working Group	Paul Packard	<p>Thank you for your time and for your work to address the Covid-19 pandemic. As an RN with over 30 years of experience in healthcare, a Veteran of the US military, a native North Carolinian, constituent, Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA) and Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) I request that you join other states Governors and follow Secretary Azar's recommendations to remove barriers to CRNAs and other APRNs practicing to the top of their education and training.</p> <p>As a result of the Covid-19 crisis, it is important that NC optimize its healthcare workforce. Waiving supervision requirements (removing barriers) now will leverage the full capability of APRNs during this crisis and hopefully into the future. Facilities need maximum flexibility to utilize CRNAs and other APRNs to provide critical healthcare services for which we are uniquely trained to handle.</p> <p>As a CRNA, I am committed to providing the highest level of life saving critical care services to all patients and in particular to Covid-19 virus patients. CRNAs have provided high quality and safe patient care for over 150 years. Numerous other states enacted legislation to remove barriers to CRNA practice prior to and during this crisis. Governors in New York, Arizona, Tennessee, Michigan, Massachusetts and Maine have suspended physician supervision requirements for APRNs. Numerous other states removed these barriers permanently through legislation in prior years. Decades of research highlight the safety profile of APRNs, as well as aligning with the Institute of Medicines recommendations from 2010 and Secretary Azar's letter to Governors on March 24, 2020.</p> <p>The NC General Assembly has failed to pass legislation to remove these barriers to APRN practice for the past 2-3 sessions. Currently H185 and S143 (SAVE act) are sitting in committee and the General Assembly has the opportunity to act now. Numerous organizations like AARP, John Locke Foundation, NCNA, NC Rural Center, AHHC of NC, NC Center for Public Health, March of Dimes, Americans for Tax Reform, and others support passing this legislation. There are zero organizations outside of physicians that oppose this legislation.</p> <p>Other critical issues like the personal protective equipment shortage, social distancing,</p>

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			and economic sequela are already being addressed and I thank you for your leadership. Now I ask that you remove these barriers to safe healthcare for all APRNs by passing the SAVE act. Thank you for your consideration and thank you for your leadership during this crisis. I will keep working on the frontlines providing care just as I have for the past 30 years. Please contact me if you desire further information.
03/30/2020 10:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Isabel Geffner	<p>To whom it may concern:</p> <p>Please ensure that voting takes place in November 2020 by taking measures POST HASTE that arrange for alternate-to-in-person-voting procedures. This is an urgent matter to protect our democracy.</p> <p>Sincerely, Isabel Geffner</p>
03/30/2020 11:09 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Elizabeth Dicker	I feel very strongly we need to be prepared for a possible continued disruption of our election process. Please start working on a vote-by-mail system so we can have elections this November. Thank you.
03/30/2020 11:22 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Maureen Kurtz	We need to make vote by mail more accessible. Please allow voters to request absentee ballots by email. Please provide free postage and reduce the number of witnesses for absentee voting. And please provide more explicit reminders to the voter to SIGN THE ENVELOPE because people do forget to sign.
03/30/2020 11:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Hester	We must be allowed to vote by mail. Other states do it very successfully. Please study those states. Voting by mail makes voting easier for everyone and voting is the most sacred of our American rights. Support Democracy.
03/30/2020 11:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Mary Beth Koza	The state needs to develop a vote by mail option for the Nov general election.
03/30/2020 11:32 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Marla Dunham	I am writing you in support of mail-in ballots for the upcoming general election in November. We need to protect the health and well-being of our citizens and to encourage voting to protect our democracy. Thank you for your work and service.
03/30/2020 11:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Create a balloting model similar to Oregon, to permit mail in or drop off voting.
03/30/2020 11:55 AM	Continuity of State	Emily Tsai	I would like to urge the members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 to support

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		the option for mail-in voting for North Carolina in the upcoming Fall election, including waiving the requirement for a witness/notary. Given the current uncertainty around the COVID-19 pandemic, it is incredibly important that we are taking proactive measures to ensure the basic rights of our citizens to vote are maintained. It is unclear that in the Fall it will be wise or safe for the State to mandate in-person voting. This is especially true for some of our more vulnerable populations, such as the elderly, those with compromised health, and the disabled. Oregon has been doing this for more than 20 years and they have some of the highest participation in elections. This solution makes sense, and we can learn from them on how they have successfully implemented this. We have seen how the lack of forward thinking and preparations nationally have made the COVID-19 situation even worse than it needs to be. Let's be thinking about preparations for the Fall to ensure we are not scrambling at the last minute and our fundamental democratic rights are not compromised.
03/30/2020 12:04 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Kennneth Tireman	I have two CPAP Machines and believe they can be used if ventilators are unavailable, and they will beat nothing... I would suggest that a simple database be set up that list folks that have these (in pvt hands), and that if needed the police or firemen can go out and pick them up if necessary. If they are not needed no harm no foul , but this mess is only going to get worse... I would also suggest the Governor to establish this data base state wide and be made available to the hospitals. Thank You Kenneth L. Tireman Sr. Cary NC
03/30/2020 12:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Hawk	During the Corona Crisis we need to put people first: people need health care and money- make sure those that are not covered by the Federal National Disaster and Emergency bill will be covered by NC legislation and for goodness sake, expand Medicare/caid. Next, we need to build alternatives to in person voting- how can we expand voting by mail?
03/30/2020 12:25 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Susan Rucker	I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to the COVID-19 that makes sure people across the state regardless of who they are, where they work or where they come from are protected in this moment. We need your leadership to drive state level dollars to families and people and ensure our public programs—from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services—have what is needed to respond to this moment and sustain our collective well-being in the future. Please move quickly to fix the state's unemployment insurance, ensure people have access to paid sick leave, and provide the supports to young children and families to put food on the table and a home in which to shelter in place. Your leadership is needed and we know that it will matter so much in this moment that you strengthen our collective institutions. We can afford to do it and cannot afford not to. Please consider this a first step towards moving to Medicare for All support!
03/30/2020 12:29 PM	Education Working Group	We are at Risk too Brittney Bailey	We work in childcare and we are under played and at risk. But yet we are open hours are cut and we are under paid.
03/30/2020 12:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Kathi Beratan	I strongly urge you to develop a vote-by-mail contingency plan for the November elections. It is highly likely that vote-by-mail will be the only safe way to hold an election this year. Even the most optimistic estimates by Public Health experts say that it will be several months before it will be safe to start moving around again, and most say that we will be at risk until a vaccine is widely available in (at best) 12-18 months. I feel that voting is my duty as a citizen but I am in a high-risk group; PLEASE set up vote-by-mail so I won't have

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03/30/2020 12:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. MARTIN FEINSTEIN	to risk my life to vote this year. To keep our citizens safe and to keep our democracy vital, we must implement an option to vote without going to a public space and exposing ourselves to disdease.
03/30/2020 12:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Judith Kramer	I am in full support of the proposed amendment to our chief state elections official's emergency powers (G.S.163-27.1). I think the NC Elections director must have the authority to take swift action on behalf of voters during the coronavirus crisis to ensure that all eligible voters can submit a ballot. I support the subsequent recommendations outlined in a letter submitted to the NC BOE by Democracy NC earlier this month.
03/30/2020 12:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Scott Herrick	According to the 2020 Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures Report, more than 180,000 people are living with Alzheimer's disease and over 479,000 people are providing unpaid care in North Carolina. Most likely, dementia does not increase risk for COVID-19, the respiratory illness caused by the new coronavirus, just like dementia does not increase risk for flu. However, dementia-related behaviors, increased age and common health conditions that often accompany dementia may increase risk. For example, people with Alzheimer's disease and all other dementia may forget to wash their hands or take other recommended precautions to prevent illness. In addition, diseases like COVID-19 and the flu may worsen cognitive impairment due to dementia. The Alzheimer's Association stands ready to assist all families in this difficult time with resources and support. I can be reached at sherrick@alz.org. 800-272-3900 for 24/7/365 support
03/30/2020 12:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Robert Palombo	Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina
03/30/2020 12:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Reverend Oliver M. Thomas	As we respond to COVID-19, it is imperative that the State of North Carolina: 1) Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail; 2) Provide counties the resources to recruit more poll-workers for November; 3) Give counties the flexibility they need to create early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election with more funds to support this effort; 4) And, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina. Thank you!
03/30/2020 12:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Michael Shell	*Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail *Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November *Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election *Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina

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03/30/2020 12:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	LTC James Seramba	I believe encouraging more people to vote by making it easier is essential
03/30/2020 12:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Miriam Angress	For the health of our democracy and your constituents, please 1) make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail; provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November; give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election; and ensure that any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina. Many thanks for your attention to these crucial matters.
03/30/2020 12:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Healthcare Brigitte Elizabeth Delalleau Carcaterra	I want to make a vaccine against coronavirus convid v19 with fluids serics
03/30/2020 12:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Deborah Sorin	I write to support mail-in voting for the 2020 general election with the caveat that we need to waive the requirement of needing a notary/witness for the document. I voted by mail several times when I lived in Oregon 20 years ago, and it was easy and effective. I think expecting people to vote in person when we don't even know it if it is safe to do so could be disastrous. We should all support all eligible voters to vote, not trying to restrict voting, as voting in person would likely do.
03/30/2020 12:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Katie Collins	This should have been done about 100 years ago but PLEASE ALLOW FOR ALL VOTERS TO VOTE BY MAIL. Why is this not already a thing???
03/30/2020 01:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Erin Isgett	I'm writing to encourage our State Board to make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail and provide counties the resources to recruit more poll workers for November. We also need to give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. Also, we need to ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina. Thank you for your consideration.
03/30/2020 01:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Victoria Shea	Voting by mail will be very important and it should be easier to request and return ballots. The state should certify groups who are permitted to supply absentee ballot requests to potential voters, reduce required witnesses, and make it clear that postage is free. Provide counties with funds to recruit more pollworkers for November, including raising the pay. All government meetings, including remote ones, should be fully publicized, open, and transparent to the people of North Carolina
03/30/2020 01:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	David Erdmann	This shutdown is irrational. We are losing more people to the regular flu than the Chinese flu. People are losing their jobs and livelihoods by the millions in a futile attempt to slow the spread of a flu. Furthermore, we should have rights and liberties in this country that cannot be abrogated. One of those rights should be the right to work. The government

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	Group		should not have the power to shut down my business because a few people are sick. This encroachment upon my liberty is unjustified, immoral and unconstitutional.
03/30/2020 01:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. John Bromer	Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail. Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. And, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina . Thank you-
03/30/2020 01:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. hardee klitzman	It is imperative that everyone in NC is able to easily register to vote and then vote in this fall's elections. Seeing as how the COVID-19 virus may impact people being able to vote in person it must be easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail. It is also important to provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November and to facilitate early voting. Thank you, Hardee klitzman 3015 Wade Road Durham 27705
03/30/2020 01:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. David Marshall	I agree with Common Cause and ask that you do the following: Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina
03/30/2020 01:08 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Ann Stone	I am concerned about local, state, and national elections. It is necessary to vote by mail to make voting safe and easy for our citizens. Counties need more resources for recruiting more pollworkers for November. Also, it is important to allow counties flexibility and funding to support early voting for the election. All government meetings that occur remotely must be fully open and transparent for the people of North Carolina. Thank you.
03/30/2020 01:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	steve sunshine	I'm very concerned about the effect of the pandemic on November elections. Please support and expand mail in voting.
03/30/2020 01:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	James Schall	Hello, In light of the coronavirus, please make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail and provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November. Please give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. Also, please ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time

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			are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina.
			Thanks, James
03/30/2020 01:11 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Susan Morance	I am writing to support making it easier for all NC voters to cast a ballot by mail; this issue is most important to me; I personally want to vote by mail as it will be safer for me as a senior. There is a need for recruiting more poll workers for November. I support resources for early voting.
03/30/2020 01:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Janet Flowers	I am very concerned about the impact of the virus upon the normal voting processes. I strongly urge you to provide an opportunity for citizens to vote by mail. A true democracy represents as many of its citizens as possible.
03/30/2020 01:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Roberta Cook	<p>Please:</p> <p>Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina.</p> <p>Thank you, Roberta J Cook</p>
03/30/2020 01:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Ronald Coble	<p>The money is there,,,,use it to stem the toll from this disaster virus. STOP BEING CHEAPSKATES WHEN IT COMES TO THE HEALTH OF NC CITIZENS!!</p> <p>Ron Coble Mint Hill, NC</p>
03/30/2020 01:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Anne Hummel	I urge you to please follow the recommendations of the State Board of Elections to make it easier for all voters in the state to cast a ballot by mail in November and to give counties the funds and flexibility they need to create early voting plans that will accommodate the needs of this upcoming general election. Please also ensure that all government meetings conducted remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina.
03/30/2020 01:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. George Bohmfalk, MD	PLEASE take this critical moment to expand Medicaid, and go a step further by allowing anyone who has lost their employer-provided healthcare insurance as they are laid off to immediately qualify for Medicaid, even if only for 6-12 months or until the economy has rebounded. That will support North Carolina's workforce in this time of desperate need and bring millions of Federal dollars to North Carolina. Thanks much.
03/30/2020 01:20 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Lloyd Comstock	Living in a democracy, it is essential that we allow eligible voters access to vote. I support the amendment (GS 163-27.1) to allow the chief state elections official emergency powers. The coronavirus outbreak might still effect the November elections (who knows which way). There are other possible emergencies that might interfere with free elections. I support the ideas presented by Democracy North Carolina. Please protect our republic.

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03/30/2020 01:21 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Kathleen Klesh	My husband and I, who live in Cary, appreciate the efforts of the State Board of Elections to ensure voters can readily avoid the coronavirus yet exercise their right to vote come November. We encourage anything that makes it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail. We urge that you provide counties with the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November. Please consider giving counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. Finally, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina. Thank you.
03/30/2020 01:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Deborah Milkowski	During these uncertain times it is imperative that every eligible voter can submit a ballot safely and securely this November. To this end, it is critical that every voter be able to cast a ballot by mail. Please ensure that every county has the resources to ensure safety and security at all polling stations. If additional polling workers are needed I ask that resources be provided to recruit more workers. Please allow specific counties the flexibility they need to create plans for early voting as each county may have unique needs this election year. Lastly, please ensure that all communications made by this committee are transparent and made available to the public. Thank you.
03/30/2020 01:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Nancy Henderson-James	As we look toward possible disruption of elections, please address the ability to vote by mail and provide the counties with resources to allow that.
03/30/2020 01:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Jana Baker	Please be sure the following happens: *Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail *Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November *Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election *Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina Thank you. Jana Baker
03/30/2020 01:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Mary Goodkind	There are common sense actions you can agree on to implement that will protect all citizens' right to vote and the reliability and accuracy of our elections during this crisis. The State Board of Elections has made good recommendations that I support. Simply, I recommend we: Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail. Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November. Be careful not to close polling places in poorer neighborhoods. Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina. Thank you for considering my views.
03/30/2020 01:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	mr michael wechter	We must make voting by mail easy & convenient for all in order to have full, participatory democracy.

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
03/30/2020 01:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Claire Stone	<p>These things are very important to me regarding the integrity of our elections:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1). Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail 2) Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November 3) Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election 4) Ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina <p>Thank you</p>
03/30/2020 01:27 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	mr John Wiles	Vote-by-mail is needed now more than ever..
03/30/2020 01:27 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Roberta Wall	Higher do you fully adopt and fully fund the recommendations of the board of elections for providing access to online voting for everyone in our state as well as all the other recommendations from the board and also from North Carolina common cause. Thank you very much, Roberta Wall
03/30/2020 01:29 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Reverend Willard Bass	<p>I am expressing my concern for prompt attention to how North Carolina will handle the November election. I highlight the following areas that need to be addressed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail • Provide counties the resources to recruit more poll workers for November • Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election • Ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina <p>Your urgent attention to securing the health of our democracy through readily and accessible NC voting and elections procedures.</p>
03/30/2020 01:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Stephen Weissman	Because many citizens might still be in isolation because of the virus, and others may be recovering from the effects of illness, please provide ample time and easy methods to acquire and submit mail-in ballots.
03/30/2020 01:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Ms Catherine Shoemaker	I am writing to encourage you to protect the health of our democracy by making it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail. Please provide greater access to vote by mail absentee ballots, which will be critical if North Carolinians are still being

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	Public Safety) Working Group		asked to avoid crowds come November. Thank you!
03/30/2020 01:36 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Cindy Krimmelbein	Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina
03/30/2020 01:36 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Daniel I Hohenstein	It is incumbent on the legislature to insure that all voting age eligible citizens are provided with multiple alternatives to both register and vote in this upcoming November election. Fairness over political interest should be the desired of every elected official.
03/30/2020 01:41 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Z. Vijay Director	Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina
03/30/2020 01:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Roger Rynearson	This is very important, it should proceed.
03/30/2020 01:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Krysta Workman	In regards to the upcoming general election in November, I'm writing to ask that the committee consider the following: - Ensure a simple way for all NC voters to cast a ballot by mail - Allocate resources to counties for recruiting more pollworkers for November - Give counties the flexibility and necessary funds to put together and support early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election - Guarantee any and all remote government meetings happening during this time are fully open and transparent to North Carolinians Providing voter accessibility and protecting democracy are two of the most crucial actions to be taken as November approaches. Please take this comment and others like it into consideration. Lives most certainly depend on it, no exaggeration.
03/30/2020 01:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Richard Boulter	The NC legislature needs to approve as written, the proposed statutory changes as outlined in the March 26th letter from the of the State Board of Elections. It is vital that our democracy continues to function during this pandemic, and that all who want to vote are able to. This is not the time for politically motivated actions, so please: • Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail • Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November • Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina <p>thank you</p>
03/30/2020 01:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Yol Swan	I support the State Board's recommendations to providing greater access to vote by mail absentee ballots, which will be critical if North Carolinians are asked to avoid crowds in November. I strongly encourage you to make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail, provide counties the resources to recruit more poll workers for November, while giving them the flexibility to create early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election, as well as more funds to support this. Also, to ensure that any and all government meetings occurring remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina. Thank you
03/30/2020 01:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Leigh Burchell	As someone working in the healthcare sector, it is clear to me that COVID-19 may remain a disruptive force in society well into the fall, if not into 2021. That will be a real risk even if there is a "quiet" period, epidemiologically, this summer. It will be critical for the health of our democratic processes that citizens not be hampered from voting in the November election by unnecessary laws or regulations - at this time, flexibility in voting access methods is going to be critical. People should be allowed to vote from home or virtually with as little limitation as possible. Further, it will be so important that the Board of Elections makes sure that citizens are very well-educated on what their options are.
03/30/2020 01:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Brooke Johnson Suiter	Please insure early and mail in voting for all citizens! Thank you!
03/30/2020 01:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Rubye Braye	Make Vote By Mail one of the highest priorities for the 2020 November elections. Make sure it is as important as the 2020 Census.
03/30/2020 01:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Karen Clark-Keys	<p>I am asking that all options for early voting, extended hours and days for voting including Sundays, as well as alternative voting such as mail-in ballots be allowed, encouraged and promoted for all future elections, most especially for the up-coming November 2020 general election. In addition,</p> <p>Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November</p> <p>Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election</p> <p>Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina</p>
03/30/2020 01:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Eric Everett	Please act early to make it clear to all how they can vote by mail. Also take measures that prevent fraud by people coming to the door pretending they will deliver your vote as NC notoriously is now know for. Our democracy is in a fragile state and we need transparency and bi-partisan leadership to give confidence to EVERY voter that they are heard. Should we be able to vote normally we need EARLY voting in ALL areas with sufficient resources

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			and hours for all to be accounted for. This is NOT business as usual and we need to be ready for a record turnout!
03/30/2020 01:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Claire Kempner	We need vote by mail in place prior to the general election
03/30/2020 01:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Professor Sarah Stein	To ensure safe and fair elections in NC, please make it as easy as possible for all NC citizens to cast a vote by ballot, provide resources to counties to recruit more pollworkers for November, ensure counties are able to create sufficient early voting plans, and make transparent all remote government meetings that would have been public.
03/30/2020 02:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Darley Adare	Please ensure that you: Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail Provide counties the resources to recruit more poll workers for November Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election Ensure all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina Thank you for your attention to and consideration of these matters.
03/30/2020 02:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Catherine Marie	Please make sure that all NC voters are able to easily vote by mail.
03/30/2020 02:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mary Cuni	Please use a mail in method for the November elections. Thank you.
03/30/2020 02:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Rachel Boulter	To whom it may concern: Hello. My name is Rachel Boulter and I am a college student in the UNC system. I believe it is imperative and critical to our democracy to have the state and national elections in November be accessible to all. As a college student, I voted with an absentee ballot and was able to mail my ballot directly to the board of elections in my home county. This coming fall, I will need to use this same method, and if the state is still under some degree of lockdown, this method will be crucial to allowing many North Carolinians to vote. Similarly, meetings, debates, and any discourses in the government need to be conducted in such a way that I, and other voters, will be able to fully understand, participate, and be active voters in our state and nation. I think it's important to protect our nation's people by social distancing and prohibiting large crowds while COVID-19 is at large, but I also feel that we should not sacrifice our democracy and civic duty. Thus, we must prepare for the possibility of a remote/online election. Thank you for your service and time.

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			Best, Rachel Boulter
03/30/2020 02:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Mark Irby	During this unprecedented time of uncertainty it is vital to assure that all eligible voters have an unrestricted opportunity to exercise their civic duty. Limitations on physical movements should in no way hamper a free and fair election process when so much is at stake. It's time to put your political interests and ideology and embrace innovation and factual data while allowing the maximum number of North Carolina citizens voting rights.
03/30/2020 02:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Nelda Holder	I have four specific requests: 1) Please make sure that it EASY for folks to vote across the state in November, and start advertising that early. 2) Make sure counties are provided with what they need to assure enough poll workers 3) Give counties the flexibility they need (and the funds they need) to support early voting plans sufficient for the fall election 4) Ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina Thank you!
03/30/2020 02:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Walter Kross	Please help our unemployment office deal with this crush. I've been trying to open a claim as an independent contractor for the last 2 weeks, and can't do it on the website. Maybe you can tell me what I'm doing wrong, but I think they're overwhelmed. Thanks.
03/30/2020 02:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Michael Eisenberg	We must make sure everyone during this pandemic gets healthcare, it's time to extend Medicaid on a temporary basis and when this crisis is over on a permanent position. No one who gets this awful virus should have to worry about treatments and they should be at no cost.
03/30/2020 02:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Angela Howard	Dear Working Group Members, As you consider plans for how to navigate the continuing pandemic in NC, please address the following issues around protecting our democracy: -Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail -Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November -Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election -Ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of NC Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these important issues.
03/30/2020 02:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Angela Howard	Dear Working Group Members, As you consider plans for how to navigate the continuing pandemic in NC, please address the following issues around protecting our democracy: -Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail -Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November -Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election -Ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of NC

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03/30/2020 02:36 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. ROBERT CHERNIAK	Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these important issues. because the # of cases continue to climb we need State wide vote by mail
03/30/2020 02:38 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Wayne Counts	Make organ donation the default standard and require opt-out to not donate organs. Effectively reversing the current organ donor designation. Sadly more people will likely have compromised organs as a result of the pandemic. There will be a further reduced pool and staggering shortage of viable organs without a change in organ donation rules/ laws. Make it easier for all NC citizens to be added to voter rolls for NC elections. US citizens residing in NC should also be added to voter rolls for NC elections by default. People should be removed from voter rolls upon death, moving from the state and convicted of treason. Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail and verification of one voter one vote. Anyone found to have voted more than once in an election would be fined \$100,000 and up to 1 year in jail per offense. Assistance givers would be allowed to fill out ballots as they are now but a person who gathers a dozen or so ballots and fills them out with their votes and not those of the person who the ballot was intended for should be arrested and if convicted be subject to the penalty. Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November. Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. Also, ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina.
03/30/2020 02:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Dennis Nagy	Please support and implement a state-wide vote by mail law/bill in time for the November 3rd 2020 election.
03/30/2020 02:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rev. William Garrard	I encourage you to allow local boards of elections to offer easy and safe voting processes. Increasing the mail-in ballots at no cost to the voter is preferred or a vote via the internet. Thanks
03/30/2020 02:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. J S	Our democracy critically depends on: Making it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail. Provide counties the resources to recruit more and younger poll-workers for November. Give counties the flexibility they need to create and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election. And ensure any and all government meetings that occur remotely during this time are fully open and transparent to the people of North Carolina.
03/30/2020 02:49 PM	Continuity of State	Ms Susanna Duncan	I'm writing to strongly urge the NCGA to allow mail in voting in North Carolina. Given the

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		severe restrictions placed on our communities' ability to vote in person in the interest of public safety and health, it is critical that all North Carolina registered voters have the option of voting by mail in order to protect our democratic process and voters' trust in our elections.
03/30/2020 02:50 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Carynne McIver Button	<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>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.</p>
03/30/2020 02:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	mrs Laura Ballance	<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</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>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>
03/30/2020 02:58 PM	Continuity of State	William Carley	Stop screwing around, especially in a time of crisis. And leave your politics at the door.

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
03/30/2020 02:59 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Joan Engelhardt	It is extremely important that everyone be able to vote in November. I support vote by mail and want you to make that possible and publicize it widely especially as the Coronavirus pandemic has affected our ability to gather in public. There is no more important action for our state government to take at this time. I am dead serious here.
03/30/2020 03:04 PM	Economic Support Working Group	MARK WARD	Please consider a package to help NC farmers and related agribusiness through this tough time. Some kind of crop protection initiative that will provide a mechanism to protect existing crops from ruin - perhaps with a payback to the State upon sale. Thank you.
03/30/2020 03:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Barbara Coulson	<p>When pollworkers, most of whom are elderly, are harder to find as well as secure polling places, it would be a smart idea to convert to vote by mail for the upcoming general election. States that have done this show it to be a far more secure method when all registered voters are mailed a ballot a few weeks in advance of the election. This gives them time to research candidates, fill out the ballot, and return it to the Board of Elections or their local post office. The Board of Elections could hire staff to count the ballots, and much money could be saved by the counties by not having to support several hundred polling sites and pollworker salaries. It would also lessen the danger of a resurgence of the Coronavirus, which is considered by health experts to be a distinct possibility.</p> <p>Initiating a ranked choice system of first, second, and third choice would also avoid any costly runoffs and give voters the opportunity to vote for their first, second, or third choice of candidates. Voters would have to be informed well in advance about the benefits of this so they understand the process, but I believe it would be well worth using this election as a pilot program.</p> <p>Secure elections- save money- avoid runoffs- give voters choices to rate candidates- and maybe save the State.</p>