

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/01/2020 03:02 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Edith Simpson	Expand Medicaid. Thousands of North Carolinians are afraid to seek treatment for coronavirus due to cost. Those that do are going to be hit with horrific medical bills that will cause them bankruptcy since they have no way to pay due to lost jobs and income.
04/01/2020 03:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote by mail please Katherine Patel	Please have a vote by mail option so we can vote safely even if the Covid pandemic continues through the fall.
04/01/2020 03:17 PM	Health Care Working Group	Robert Luisana	As a health insurance broker, I implore the legislature to pass Medicaid Expansion. The critical need for expanded Medicaid coverage has snowballed with the Corona virus outbreak. Please put aside prejudices and act to save lives.
04/01/2020 03:17 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Carol Rist	Especially at this extraordinary time, we must extend medicaid coverage. Hospitals in rural areas which have not already folded will have a chance at survival.
04/01/2020 03:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Cama Duke	North Carolina was already at a significant disadvantage without expanded Medicaid, laying waste to our greatest resource—our people. Covid19 raises the stakes to the breaking point. We will not be able to recover economically without expanded Medicaid, and countless lives are at stake. Act now. Do what is right,
04/01/2020 03:49 PM	Economic Support Working Group	David Huskins	The workgroup needs to keep front and center the issue of insurance companies skillfully avoiding claim eligibility for business interruption during pandemics requiring a declaration of national or state emergency.
04/01/2020 03:49 PM	Economic Support Working Group	David Huskins	The workgroup needs to keep front and center the issue of insurance companies skillfully avoiding claim eligibility for business interruption during pandemics requiring a declaration of national or state emergency.
04/01/2020 03:54 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Steve McConaughy	I would be very much in favor of voting by mail. I work for a home healthcare company, and we are doing everything to keep our clinicians safe, but the more we can keep people home the better. Thank you!
04/01/2020 03:55 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Cheryl McGraw	Expand Medicaid immediately and get people the insurance they need! This is a moral crisis and a test of your ability to lead without prejudice against the poorest of the poor. We taxpayers won't be paying for it anyway!!!
04/01/2020 04:15 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Gailya Paliga	NC Rural Hospitals are closing and we have a coronavirus pandemic . The NCGA can and must help NC residents. Expanding Medicaid would be a win/win/win/win for NC - helping people, infusing state with money, bringing jobs to every county, supporting our hospitals! How many people? "A study by the George Washington University, the Cone Health Foundation and the Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust estimated that 634,000 more people would gain Medicaid coverage by 2022 if North Carolina expanded Medicaid in November 2019." How much money? Estimates of over \$1.7 billion a year - meanwhile our money is going to other states. How many jobs? Early estimates were 50,000. How many hospitals? These rural hospitals have already closed but many are barely making it, according to https://www.beckershospitalreview.com/finance/state-by-state-breakdown-of-102-rural-hospital-closures.html : Blowing Rock Hospital

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			<p>Davie Medical Center-Mocksville Our Community Hospital (Scotland Neck) Vidant Pungo Hospital (Belhaven) Washington County Hospital (Plymouth) Yadkin Valley Community Hospital (Yadkinville)</p> <p>As you know, Medicaid expansion would help the working poor, a group of people whose income is too high to qualify for Medicaid right now, but who don't have enough money to pay for health insurance. Most of these people wait until they get really sick and end up at the emergency room, which is worse for their quality of life and ability to survive, and also is both inefficient and expensive for hospitals.</p> <p>Please put politics aside and do what is best for NC - Expand Medicaid!</p>
04/01/2020 04:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joan Gardner	We absolutely need voting by mail for this November. I think it would be a better way for the future. It would save money, save energy, and allow ease for everyone. Let's be a leader, like OR, and WA.
04/01/2020 04:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Theodore Fuller	It is urgent to expand Medicaid in North Carolina at this time!
04/01/2020 04:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Becca Friedman	It is now more critical than ever that Medicaid Expansion is adopted in North Carolina to provide healthcare to more than 500,000 people who urgently need it. This action could be taken quickly, requiring no increases in state taxes, and the benefits in access to care and treatment to individuals currently uninsured would be immense. In the Family Support and Health Care Unit at Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy, we see on a daily basis the stress and hardships imposed on our clients due to the inaccessibility of healthcare for vulnerable populations. Medicaid Expansion would make incredible strides towards easing the burdens and strengthening the health and well-being of our families, communities, and state as a whole. Due to COVID-19, we are relying on workers in "essential businesses" to keep our state functioning, yet these are the individuals who are most likely to be uninsured and fall in NC's coverage gap. And while always true, during a global pandemic more than ever, no individual should be discouraged from seeking appropriate and essential healthcare because they fear they won't be able to pay. We are all at risk when our neighbors do not have health insurance and can't access the care they need. And during this crisis, a time when so much strain is already placed on hospitals and community health centers, Medicaid Expansion will help ensure these essential locations can keep their doors open by receiving compensation for the invaluable care they provide.
04/01/2020 04:23 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Wayne Hale	Please expand Medicaid to cover patients who will otherwise be at risk for high medical bills to Corona virus infection, or worse avoid medical care and inadvertently spread the disease.
04/01/2020 04:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Bette Meyer	From someone who has experienced mail in ballots: As a retired letter carrier living in Oregon I know this is absolutely the best way to vote. We have higher voter turnout than states with polling sites. No long lines. No searching for physical sites that have been changed. At this point no threat of disease transmission. Comes to your house. You have as much time as you want to study voter guide. Mail it back. There is a paper trail so no

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04/01/2020 04:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patricia Grandstaff	<p>one can hack a voter machine and flip your vote. It's a win win for everyone</p> <p>Please support a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of NC's contingency planning for the November general election. As a senior citizen, I am very concerned about all our residents having reasonable access to vote in case of this medical emergency or other natural disaster. I appreciate the thoughtful report "Recommendations to Address Election-Related Issues Affected by COVID-19, by Executive Director Bell of the State Board of Elections, and hope you will seriously consider all of the requests contained therein.</p>
04/01/2020 04:55 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Lauren Zingraff	<p>FOR – Friends of Residents in Long Term Care</p> <p>Comments to House Select Committee on COVID-19 – Health Care Working Group</p> <p>Honorable Chairs of the House Select Committee on COVID-19, Health Care Working Group:</p> <p>In this time of significant health challenge for all Americans, and most especially the aged and infirm among us, we welcome the attention Speaker Moore has shown by convening the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Working Groups to quickly identify specific areas that warrant and could benefit from rapid State legislative action. Friends of Residents (FOR) is dedicated to improving the quality of life of our State's residents of Long Term Care (LTC) facilities. In response to the Chair's request, we submit these comments with FOR priority items for the Health Care Working Group's consideration.</p> <p>Long Term Care facility residents' priority issues:</p> <p>Ensure sufficient PPE for use by staff in long term care facilities. FOR recognizes that this PPE shortage is a widespread concern but highlights the fragility and vulnerability of LTC residents and the significant danger to these residents from staff without PPE. NOTE: The Washington State nursing home virus spread and resident loss of life were a direct result of staff spread of the virus which may have been limited by proper PPE. Ensure LTC staff are considered "high risk" personnel that should receive priority COVID-19 testing. No limitation on testing, promptly identifying and removing infected staff saves lives. Maintain and enhance staffing at LTC facilities As staff and residents become ill with the virus, maintaining staffing levels will become increasingly difficult and dangerous for the residents. Utilizing available COVID-19 specific resources to provide enhanced staff payments will be vital to keeping staffing levels up throughout the crisis. Enable LTC residents to communicate with family, caregivers and LTC Ombudsmen with Senior-friendly Tablets. Social distancing and shelter at home orders eliminate resident visitation and isolate LTC residents, potentially leading to deteriorating mental and physical health. FOR has researched and identified senior-friendly tablets that may be rapidly deployed. We have identified funds available for nursing home resident assistance, and request legislative assistance to connect assisted living residents with this technology.</p>

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			<p>FOR thanks you for this opportunity to highlight the pressing needs of North Carolina's residents of long-term care facilities. We are proud members of the Coalition on Aging and support their priority issues in addition to those specific to LTC residents that we have identified above.</p> <p>We welcome the opportunity to share detail with you or your staff on any of these items, and look forward to assisting your Working Group in your efforts to identify and address health care impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on our State.</p> <p>Sincerely, Lauren Zingraff, Exec. Dir. FOR</p> <p>Cc: Honorable Tim Moore, Speaker of the NC House of Representatives Bill Lamb, Chair, FOR</p>
04/01/2020 04:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	Rebecca Cerese	<p>Even before COVID-19 too many of our fellow North Carolinians were suffering from lack of health coverage and rural hospitals and communities were struggling financially because of the General Assembly's decision to not expand Medicaid. Now that we are dealing with a public health crisis, this decision is making matters much worse. Many of the people who are uninsured are working at jobs that serve the public, leaving them at greater risk of not just getting infected, but of inadvertently passing on this very contagious virus because they can't afford to go to the doctor and they don't have any paid sick days and have to come to work. Many more people are being let go from their jobs, and therefore losing their employer based insurance - leaving even more people unprotected and unable to afford treatment if they do get sick. Expanding Medicaid will also bring in billions of federal dollars that we desperately need to support our hospitals and health professionals as they fight this pandemic, and struggle to pay the bills. During this unprecedented time I am asking that you put partisanship aside and work together to expand health coverage for hundreds of thousands of North Carolinians by closing the Medicaid coverage gap immediately.</p>
04/01/2020 05:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Allen Glazner	<p>It is essential to our democracy that people feel free to vote without fear. Even if the pandemic is getting under control in November, it is likely that many people will be fearful of going out in public, especially to something as crowded as a typical voting location, with shared pens, shared surfaces, standing in line, etc. Vote-by-mail seems to work well in other states. North Carolina needs to enact vote-by-mail so that everyone has a chance to vote.</p>
04/01/2020 05:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	mrs m woolley	<p>We need a fair voting system that is not bogged down with hard to read and misleading information.</p>
04/01/2020 05:19 PM	Education Working Group	Melissa Bryson	<p>As a parent of Senior who is working very hard still in his online format and a very good student I fully expect him to be able to graduate on time as he has college orientation the next week. You need to end the school year on time let these days counts as students and teachers are doing the work and break for summer as normal. Kids will need a break after all that we are going through with this. I want clear articulated plans in detail for our</p>

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			seniors because my district is NOT articulating any of the things I heart last week at the State Board meeting. They will tell us NOTHING. WE NEED CLEAR CONCISE ANSWERS.
04/01/2020 05:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Marguerite Most	<p>The State Board of Elections has recommended several legislative changes to make absentee voting easier and safer in North Carolina. I support the recommendations set out in the March 26, 2020 letter from the Board to Governor Cooper, North Carolina legislative leaders, and the Working Group charged with addressing election-related issues arising from the pandemic.</p> <p>These recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow voters to request an absentee ballot form by fax and email; 2. Establish an online portal for absentee requests and permit the use electronic signatures. 3. Allow an exception to G.S. § 163-230.2(e)(2) so that county boards of election could pre-fill voter information on an absentee request form, which could then be sent to the voter, signed, and returned. 4. Amend G.S. § 163-230. to allow voters without a driver's licensee, and who cannot access or remember their Social Security numbers to submit other evidence of the voter's name and address. The SBE letter of March 26 explains the importance of this suggested change for the elderly (and disabled) and provides examples of other permissible kinds of evidence. 5. Provide prepaid postage for the return of the ballot. <p>Thank you for your work to ensure that all North Carolinians can participate in the upcoming elections.</p>
04/01/2020 05:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Evans	I am sending this to you to let you know I support mail in voting strongly. This election is very important and so many want to vote yet we have this frightening pandemic. We need to protect everyone including those who monitor and provide our voting to those who are unable to get to a public voting place. Please support mail in voting! Thank you.
04/01/2020 05:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ELEANOR COLLINS	I support mail-in voting.
04/01/2020 05:35 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Rhonda Pawlik	Catawba County Schools has been proactive throughout this experience with very strong leadership that puts safety of all staff first and foremost in all directions. Most people give you what is going wrong but I would like to share what is going right. Dr. Matt Stover put into place 2 weeks ago a plan for most employees including teacher assistants to telework. The essential workers are on a rotating basis and following strict guidelines of social distancing. Food is provided for all families with children 18 and under that would like a meal for breakfast and lunch. We have weekly Google hangouts with each area to help us with remote learning. Everyone is very supportive and not pushing too much but making sure we stay connected with our families and students. We call it a "fluid situation" which helps with the flexibility. Things can change within seconds. We were prepared and didn't know it because most of our schools are one-to-one chromebook K-12 and the chrome books were sent home with students. Families without internet were

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			provided free WiFi through spectrum and/ or paper packets. Lots more great things going on. We still sent paper packets K-5 because not all students worked in an online platform before COVID19. 6-12 students were already using Google Classroom and Canvas. Thank you so much for your hard work and support of educators in North Carolina.
04/01/2020 05:35 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Rhonda Pawlik	Catawba County Schools has been proactive throughout this experience with very strong leadership that puts safety of all staff first and foremost in all directions. Most people give you what is going wrong but I would like to share what is going right. Dr. Matt Stover put into place 2 weeks ago a plan for most employees including teacher assistants to telework. The essential workers are on a rotating basis and following strict guidelines of social distancing. Food is provided for all families with children 18 and under that would like a meal for breakfast and lunch. We have weekly Google hangouts with each area to help us with remote learning. Everyone is very supportive and not pushing too much but making sure we stay connected with our families and students. We call it a "fluid situation" which helps with the flexibility. Things can change within seconds. We were prepared and didn't know it because most of our schools are one-to-one chromebook K-12 and the chrome books were sent home with students. Families without internet were provided free WiFi through spectrum and/ or paper packets. Lots more great things going on. We still sent paper packets K-5 because not all students worked in an online platform before COVID19. 6-12 students were already using Google Classroom and Canvas. Thank you so much for your hard work and support of educators in North Carolina.
04/01/2020 05:37 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Libby Johnson	Please support a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of the Covid-19 contingency planning around the November general election for 2020. Mail-in voting would greatly expand access to many persons in our state.
04/01/2020 05:41 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Cynthia Silva	N.C. educators are providing in-person nutritional assistance and educational supplies to continue to support the needs of not only our students, but the needs of our community. N.C. educators also have reassembled their homes into online classrooms using their own supplies to meet the needs of North Carolina's students. In return, N.C. educators ask for basic rights. Basic rights of any essential worker that is risking unknown long-term consequences, and possibly death, due to Covid-19 should receive hazard pay and masks and gloves for in-person disbursement of food and supplies. Furthermore, N.C educators ask that legislators remember what has been asked of N.C. educators as the N.C. bi-annual budget discussion resume this April.
04/01/2020 05:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Iris Schwintzer	We're going to need mail-in-voting for this fall so that all can vote under any circumstances
04/01/2020 06:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jewelry Sharyn Korwin	My husband and I support a comprehensive VOTE-BY-MAIL system in North Carolina to be implemented and explained to the public ASAP. Please do your duty and preserve and expand the right of every citizen to vote. Sharyn Korwin zip: 28374

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04/01/2020 06:34 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Zachary Kopkin	Please immediately expand Medicaid and allow over 500,000 North Carolinians to get health coverage and access care during this pandemic.
04/01/2020 06:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lib Hutchby	Voting is essential; therefore this voter is requesting that all votes be taken by mail-in ballot. There is common sense here. If Census can be done by mail, so can voting.
04/01/2020 06:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Lynn Foes	Urging NC to adopt recommendations of NC Board of elections to make voting by mail as easy as we can in these days of pandemic uncertainty.
04/01/2020 07:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Marci Harvey	My husband is a rental property owner and I worry that people are not paying rent because they know they can not be evicted. I fear the worst of our time will be in a few months, when people are far behind on rent, yet we can not file an eviction order. Is there a way a landlord can accept partial rent but still keep up with legal proceedings if tenants do not pay rent? The tenants we have now that need court documents filed have not gotten behind because of Covid-19. They are behind from the end of 2019 and my husband has been trying to work with them and give them time. But our mortgage companies still require payments.
04/01/2020 07:03 PM	Education Working Group	Mr. Jason Harvey	I have gotten information that the state department of ed has issued directives for seniors and their grades. Now, we are waiting on the local district to make a decision about their criteria. Why is a local board able to supercede what the state dept has issued? My son is a senior and he should have no trouble graduating, but the confusion for parents and teachers about grades, no grades, pass/fail is very confusing. I imagine for seniors who are in grade danger, it is very frustrating. Seems like time for a clear, easy to understand statement to be made for everyone and let's be done.
04/01/2020 07:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Amy Vasu	It is important to ensure that our government continues functioning and that elections are held without interruption. Therefore, I support the establishment of a comprehensive vote-by-mail system in North Carolina, and I ask that the working group support such an approach.
04/01/2020 07:09 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Gailya Paliga	<p>Many women are paid poorly, and don't have health care or other benefits at work, like paid sick leave or family leave. Low paying roles include home health aides, child-care workers, retail cashiers, waitresses and hotel housekeepers. According to the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), women make up two-thirds of the roughly 23.8 million workers in the 40 lowest-paying jobs in America. Over the past month, some of these industries have lost thousands of jobs due to the economic impact of the coronavirus. And the pandemic is exposing how stingy North Carolina is with unemployment benefits and how it could pass further laws that would help women and families, like for paid sick leave and family leave.</p> <p>People can file for unemployment benefits, which were slashed by the NCGA and former Governor Pat McCrory in 2013 by about one third and also reduced how long people can collect any aid. Nearly 90% of employees who lose their jobs are denied unemployment</p>

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			<p>benefits in North Carolina! And because of the coronavirus pandemic, hundreds of thousands of people are losing their jobs – some losses will be temporary, but many may be permanent as some businesses will not survive the shutdowns as well.</p> <p>Because of this excessive rejection rate, few people will qualify for the extra \$600 a week that would be sent to people who have already been deemed eligible for unemployment by their home state.</p> <p>From March 16 through March 31, the state processed 332,773 unemployment claims. Approximately 87 percent (290,703) of those were COVID-19 related, according to the N.C. Department of Commerce and Division of Employment Security (DES).</p> <p>The NCGA could restore unemployment benefits and make them available for more people losing their jobs through due to coronavirus shutdowns. The benefits of money paid out to people ripple through the community. People would be able to take care of themselves, and also will have money to spend at local and national businesses. Lack of money for people means no or little money for everyone.</p> <p>Also, women make up 75% of hospital workers, 93% of child care workers, and 66% of cashiers and retail salespeople in grocery stores, according to NWLC. These are all considered essential work for now. What if these women get sick themselves? They need paid sick leave, or they'll spread it. Few low wage workers like child care workers and those in grocery stores can afford to lose their job in NC. How can they take care of family members, a task more likely to fall on women? They need paid family leave.</p> <p>Meanwhile, the NCGA has access to 3.2 billion dollars in rainy day funds that could help people and communities through this crisis. And they have the power to adjust or restore unemployment benefits.</p> <p>House Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Phil Berger need to call for a special session to deal with this pandemic and help North Carolina workers in general. The pandemic rages on and helping people by making more eligible for unemployment benefits, making unemployment go longer, and providing paid sick leave and paid family leave for workers will help North Carolinians and businesses across the state.</p>
04/01/2020 07:14 PM	Health Care Working Group	Barbara Kirby	Medicaid expansion needs to be approved immediately. People need to be able to see a doctor and not be afraid of the expense. Testing for coronavirus needs to be free as well as the cost of treatment.
04/01/2020 07:17 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Sandi Shover	This is the time to reassess the efficacy of testing as we go forward into the 2020-2021 school year. The current conditions have highlighted the disparity between economically disadvantaged students and their more affluent peers. The economic gap will not close (even back to its current level) quickly, and students and schools will need time to teach, not test. Benchmarks/check-ins should be limited to one in the fall with data for planning, not any other purpose. Scaled back testing in grades 3-8 would be appropriate as would suspending the letter grading system for schools. Failing to make these changes will only widen gaps, not close them. Let us teach, not test.
04/01/2020 07:28 PM	Health Care Working	Andrew Stern	It is time to expand Medicaid. The positive outcomes to individual and societal health are

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	Group		data based in other states that have expanded Medicaid. The economic argument against it is spurious at best, especially with the current proposal of how it will be paid for, and immoral at worst.
04/01/2020 07:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Kay Reibold	Please support a Vote By Mail system in the upcoming election. Thank you.
04/01/2020 07:37 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ana Pardo	<p>Dear members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19,</p> <p>I am writing on behalf of the North Carolina Families Care Coalition, a broad, statewide coalition of organizations focused on strong family-friendly workplace policies, to share our recommendations for the General Assembly's policy response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Our recommendations, which are of a length that could not be submitted directly through this portal, are outlined in a letter than can be accessed here:</p> <p>https://ncfamiliescare.com/wp/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NC-Families-Care-COVID-19-recommendations-final.pdf</p> <p>Our recommendations outline both short-term, urgent actions the legislature can take to help stop the spread of illness and protect North Carolinians who are still going to the workplace, as well as longer term steps to help make North Carolina more prepared in the face of future public health crises.</p> <p>Please feel free to contact us with follow-up questions or if you have a need for additional information. We would welcome the opportunity to work with you in crafting policies that support working North Carolinians and their families in this difficult time. We can be reached at the email addresses below.</p> <p>Thank you for all that you and all of those in state government are doing to get us through this challenging time. It is greatly appreciated.</p> <p>Regards,</p> <p>Ana Pardo, Co-Convener, NC Families Care Coalition, Ana.Pardo@ncjustice.org Beth Messersmith, Co-Convener, NC Families Care Coalition, Beth@momsrising.org</p>
04/01/2020 07:42 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Alan Hoyle	<p>Please allow an all-mail election (my preference) or encourage widespread absentee voting by mail for any registered voter in North Carolina.</p> <p>This would help protect voters, poll workers, and all of their contacts from potential outbreaks of the virus.</p>
04/01/2020 07:42 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Richard Jacobson	I am a physician. I am a resident of Charlotte, NC. I am a pediatric neurologist working in the field of clinical neurophysiology. I currently provide EEG and intraoperative monitoring services online to hospitals all over the country, many of them in North Carolina (Atrium and Novant systems in Charlotte and Winston Salem; UNC and UNC Rex in the Triangle). I

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			<p>have a great appreciation for the value and importance of telemedicine services. I am also a volunteer with the American Heart Association, with a strong interest in their mission, particularly regarding prevention and treatment of stroke. I am also a father and a grandfather, and I have a crucial interest in the COVID-19 crisis we are faced with. I am thankful that you are working to strengthen our state's response to this medical tsunami.</p> <p>I urge you to consider two important approaches to this problem. First, please close the health insurance coverage gap - it is critical to increasing access to affordable, accessible health care for those at risk of exposure to COVID-19. Over 1 million North Carolinians do not have health insurance, and at least 400,000 have no options for health care coverage. Patients in the coverage gap are less likely to get the health care they need, and this will impact on us all, insured or uninsured.</p> <p>Second, 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>
04/01/2020 08:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Abigail Larus	Please allow vote by mail! In person voting is too dangerous
04/01/2020 08:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Mocsny Thomas	Please push through Vote by Mail for the upcoming election. We will possibly be still impacted by COVID-19 and that will alleviate the problems.
04/01/2020 08:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Sheila Beaudry	The best thing the state could do to help at this point would be to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. To give you an example of the unfairness of the current system, a woman had to leave her job to take care of her sick husband. They had healthcare through her husband's job. He died in December and she lost her healthcare. Because she was not yet 65 she didn't qualify for Medicare yet, because the previous year she had not had a paid job she didn't earn enough money to qualify for the Affordable Care Act and because she didn't work or have children she didn't qualify for Medicaid. If Medicaid was expanded she would have qualified for Healthcare insurance. I am sure that there are many other stories like this where someone falls into that gap through no fault of their own. Have some compassion and expand Medicaid. It would also help our rural hospitals survive as well.
04/01/2020 08:27 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Nancy Brown	Healthcare is vital. It's very crucial more than ever individuals receive medical assistance as needed. This is the time for us all to stick together. Together we can make a difference.
04/01/2020 09:07 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Louise Romanow	Please expand Medicaid to the 500,000 uninsured in NC. This will actually SAVE \$ because of federal reimbursements. Do it!
04/01/2020 09:14 PM	Continuity of State	Sheila Kerrigan	Dear Select Committee on COVID-19,

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>The Board of Elections needs to prepare for all NC voters to be able to vote by mail. We don't know when it will be safe to come together in groups, again. Who knows how many people will be sick or contagious this fall? Please make it possible for all voters to mail in ballots.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration, Sheila Kerrigan</p>
04/01/2020 09:27 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jack Hicks	<p>I STRONGLY support the recommendations from the NC State Board of Elections and believe that the changes proposed by the Board are necessary to insure that the November general election can be held in a way the maximizes voter participation. These changes will be particularly important if the state still is dealing with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic at that time. By taking these steps NOW, particularly with respect to putting in place the necessary procedures to expand the use of mail in and absentee ballots, we can make sure that anyone who is entitled to vote can cast a ballot, without regard to their ability to get to a polling place or fears of voting in person because of the virus. These steps will also help protect the health of poll workers and election officials. Other states have used vote-by-mail and no-reason absentee ballots successfully for years, and it's time for NC to join those states. An added benefit to mail-in/absentee ballots is that a paper record can be retained in case results need to be audited or verified. If NC waits until late summer or early fall to act on these matters, it will be too late. We should be making it easier for ALL eligible voters to cast their ballots, NOT putting up artificial barriers that disenfranchise voters. Thank you for your consideration.</p>
04/01/2020 09:42 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Bryna Rapp	<p>I think it is critically important that we ensure access to the vote this fall by creating a comprehensive vote-by-mail system for the entire state. We cannot afford to wait and see how the virus plays out. Even if "normal" life resumes, older people and vulnerable populations should not be asked to risk their health by showing up for in-person voting while there is still covid-19 in our communities. Vote by mail is secure, there is a paper trail and everyone has equal access. Let's do it!!</p>
04/01/2020 09:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Cynthia Girman	<p>As a NC resident and resident of the USA, I have a right to vote. Please allow us to vote online.</p>
04/01/2020 09:57 PM	Education Working Group	Christie Rife	<p>Expand Medicaid</p>
04/01/2020 10:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Linda Ashman	<p>I strongly support the recommendations from the NC State Board of Elections and believe that the changes proposed by the Board are necessary to ensure that the November general election can be held in a way the maximizes voter participation. These changes will be particularly important if the state still is dealing with the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic at that time. By taking these steps immediately, particularly with respect to putting in place the necessary procedures to expand the use of mail in and absentee ballots, we can make sure that anyone who is entitled to vote can cast a ballot, without regard to their ability to get to a polling place or fears of voting in person because of the virus. These steps will also help protect the health of poll workers and election officials. An added benefit to mail-in/absentee ballots is that a paper record can be retained in case</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			results need to be audited or verified. If NC waits until late summer or early fall to act on these matters, it will be too late. We should be making it easier for all eligible voters to cast their ballots, not putting up artificial barriers that disenfranchise voters. Thank you for your consideration.
04/01/2020 10:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Carol Turner	Mail-in ballots should not require a notary or witnesses. Voting should be simple and accessible for every registered voter. Please support simplifying procedures for mail-in voting such as mailing ballots to registered voters. Then begin NOW developing a system for handling and counting the ballots. Washington or Oregon could serve as models. There is time if you begin now!
04/01/2020 10:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Mary Berridge	The State Board of Elections has outlined urgent steps to protect our upcoming elections and polling staff. It is crucial to make absentee voting more accessible and to implement online voter registration. We must also prepare for poll worker shortages and make sure that any potential poll workers are working in safe conditions. I fully support the Board's recommendations to address election related issues affected by Covid-19.
04/01/2020 10:59 PM	Economic Support Working Group	limit people in Stores Francine Massiello	Waaaay too many people at Walmart, Home Depot, Lowe's, supermarket, etc at one time. Demand a Limit (like 25) in the store at one time be ENFORCED at stores. I hear the parking lots have been insane with people shopping unnecessarily. Also, start issuing tickets, if out and people don't have a letter that they are going to work or pharmacy. Too many are NOT taking this seriously. FORCE people to stay in their homes.
04/02/2020 12:13 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	North Carolina needs to close the coverage gap and expand Medicaid immediately! Over half a million North Carolinians are without access to healthcare because North Carolina has still not expanded Medicaid. Especially now with the COVID-19 pandemic, Medicaid must be expanded immediately to give people access to care and to prevent our hospitals and healthcare systems from being overwhelmed.
04/02/2020 12:15 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	North Carolina needs mail-in voting, which many states already have as an option. We need mail-in voting for everyone. This would help reduce the number of people voting during early voting and on Election Day, thereby reducing our potential for exposure to COVID-19 due to crowds and would also help protect poll workers (most of whom are over 65) from having to interacting with so many people.
04/02/2020 12:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	North Carolina needs mail-in voting, which many states already have as an option. We need mail-in voting for everyone. This would help reduce the number of people voting during early voting and on Election Day, thereby reducing our potential for exposure to COVID-19 due to crowds and would also help protect poll workers (most of whom are over 65) from having to interacting with so many people.
04/02/2020 12:21 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	North Carolina must raise the minimum wage statewide to at least \$15 so that people aren't having to choose between housing or medicine, or food or paying rent. Especially now, when so many North Carolinians have lost jobs due to COVID-19, a living wage would afford people more income to use in cases of emergency.
04/02/2020 12:22 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	North Carolina must immediately full fund pubic schools. For a decade, our schools have been stripped of money and resources, and we cannot expect students to do well while they are currently learning at home, nor when they come back to their schools, if our educators do not have the resources and supplies they need to create the schools our students deserve.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/02/2020 12:49 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Bearden	Hi! Thanks for setting up this comment page! With the uncertainty of how long the impacts of COVID-19 will limit the ability of people to move around freely , I would like to encourage the NC General Assembly to set into motion the process of voting by mail. Too many people will not feel safe going to the polls to vote. We need to make sure that voting is protected!! I strongly support Vote By Mail and hope you do too! Thanks!
04/02/2020 04:46 AM	Economic Support Working Group	1965 Jody Morrow	What can be done to help the workers ages 17 to 23 who were left out of the stimulus package? I know several young people who work hard trying to pay for school, cars, and insurance. They struggle to be responsible to help their families by providing for their needs. These are a HUGE proportion of the restaurant workers who are out of work. Just because their parents pay their insurance and maintain their permanent address and can claim them as a dependent does not mean their parents can afford to pick up their Bill's during this economic disaster. Many still have to pay their school rent. Shame on the politicians for not helping this group. Please do something to help them. Remember most of this group is of voting age. They need more help than children under 17. Plus they have sacrificed more giving up senior years, proms, summer trips, and graduations. I am not asking for myself or even for my family as it does not effect us. But I see my friends and their kids suffering. DO SOMETHING TO FIX THIS PLEASE.
04/02/2020 06:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Richard Klett	We should make it easy to vote without exposing voters to Covid-19. The more citizens who vote,the more of a democracy we will have. I do not believe this will create any voter fraud.
04/02/2020 07:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Annie Mcneill	I want to be able to vote by mail. The state should be working to make sure this happens to ensure safety of all citizens.
04/02/2020 07:43 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Shelli Plessner	Stop putting \$\$\$ and politics before lives! Do your jobs and take care of the citizens. All the citizens!
04/02/2020 07:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote from home Robert Poore	Please allow us to vote from the safety of our home. Judging by the epidemic reports, the coronavirus will be making a resurgence this winter, and I'm afraid by November it might be a problem to go out and vote for some people.
04/02/2020 08:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Thomas Wiebe	This comment is to voice support for vote-by-mail here in NC, like other states have done. Thank you.
04/02/2020 08:31 AM	Education Working Group	Kate Edwards	IDEA needs to be addressed. All EC students should be getting the best education possible as all students should. The state should,however, work with the Department of

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			Education to "freeze" IEPs as they are until everyone is back to school. Meeting during this time with IEPs to conduct reevaluations and annual reviews is not possible in all state districts due to limited resources and technology for all parents, students, staff, and outside agencies that make up IEP teams. Not meeting during this time would cause IEP's to expire and become noncompliant. All IEP dates could be frozen and services could continue as in current IEPs until we were back in school and able to meet as an IEP team. Thank you!
04/02/2020 08:33 AM	Economic Support Working Group	BCBS of NC Adele R Thevaos	BCBS of NC says they will not give any consideration to deferring payments during this epidemic. I was forced out of work by the State of NC. I cannot pay my bills. My BCBS is \$800 a month
04/02/2020 08:40 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Juliet Cooke	What will you be doing about accrued interest on taxes due on Apr 15 if postponed to July 15?
04/02/2020 09:03 AM	Health Care Working Group	Larry Bunn	My thanks to Gov Cooper for early recognition and early action in this covid 19 pandemic.
04/02/2020 09:05 AM	Health Care Working Group	HIV Community Outreach Chris Winebrenner	Medicaid expansion covers more than 500,000 people who need healthcare access more than ever Expanding Medicaid requires no increase in state taxes and can be done quickly to increase access to care and treatment for more than 500,000 people Workers in "essential businesses" are most likely to be uninsured and in our state's coverage gap. All of North Carolina is at risk when any of our neighbors are uninsured and unable to get the care they need. Medicaid expansion makes sure that hospitals and community health centers can keep their doors open during this crisis by being compensated to provide
04/02/2020 09:10 AM	Health Care Working Group	Cory Franklin	Medicaid expansion is an absolute must for NC as a means to offer coverage to a large number of uninsured. There are many who make too much for Medicaid but not enough for insurance through the marketplace. People, specifically the elderly are making choices between food, utilities and medicine which is a choice no American should have to make.
04/02/2020 09:16 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. William Andrews	I understand the legislature is contemplating a vote by mail system in NC for the November 2020 elections. I have no particulars as to how vote by mail would work, but in theory, it seems like a worthwhile option to consider. I say "option" because I do not believe that restricting voting only to a mail-in ballot would be just. I think NC voters need multiple options to register their preferences in November 2020.
04/02/2020 09:43 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Marlyne Tyre	I am elderly and have gone so far as to contact the Governor's office. Was told to contact county office and county office said to call state! We seniors need our food benefits on the 1st not the middle of the month when things will be worse! Please ask county offices to comply with our request
04/02/2020 10:05 AM	Education Working Group	Dr. Elizabeth Conroy	I'm most concerned about the safety of classified employees who are serving food to families and children. One cafeteria worker said she only has gloves and is not 6 ft. away from people picking up food. She lives with her husband and mother and doesn't want them to get sick.
04/02/2020 10:12 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Mrs Katherine Hughes	Healthcare professionals (Dr, nurses, technicians) required to be around and care for positive cases should receive bonus hazard pay since they are exposed. And they should be given hazmat gear for protection.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Public Safety) Working Group		
04/02/2020 10:59 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Tom Trawick	The only way to protect North Carolinians is to make sure everyone has insurance and access to the health care that they need.
04/02/2020 11:19 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	<p>I have several good friends who are ER nurses in North Carolina, and here are some of the things they are sharing. We are FAILING our nurses, which means we are FAILING all North Carolinians.</p> <p>- "We get issued one loop mask per 12 hour shift, reusable goggles, one N95 respirator to use perhaps forever?, and now the horrible guidance from the FDA to consider reusing gloves between patients?!? They claim we do not deserve hazard pay because 'we have plenty of PPE.' Disgusted."</p> <p>- "I work in an ER. We never close. Why don't we have sufficient PPE? This is putting our patients, our coworkers, our families, and ourselves at risk."</p>
04/02/2020 11:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Richard Pender	How about suspending 'vehicle inspections' ? Putting lives in danger to mandate that inspections have to be done with vehicles or have tags and insurance cancelled. Thanks !
04/02/2020 11:39 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr David Smith	To insure the health of North Carolina poll workers and voters and stopping the spread of infectious diseases, the rules should change to allow health threats to be a reason for absentee voting. This is urgently needed to protect the citizens of our state and the obligation to vote. One should not have to risk one's life to exercise the right to vote.
04/02/2020 12:08 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lynne Walter, MSW	<p>I am listening to the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Care Working Group, and I cannot believe that Rep. Lambeth just implied that the lack of PPE for healthcare providers and first responders was false and compared it to toilet paper hoarding. This is ludicrous and utterly disrespectful. On a normal day, healthcare providers and hospitals go through thousands of masks, gloves, and gowns. Imagine if one ER nurse or doctor, during their shift, sees one hundred patients on a normal day. That is one hundred separate sets of PPE that just one nurse or one doctor uses. Now, imagine how many patients are being seen during a pandemic.</p> <p>For Rep. Lambeth to imply that our brave healthcare providers are hoarding supplies or unjustly panicking is insulting and shameful. Nurses, doctors, PAs, EMTs, and firefighters are the people who SAVE OUR LIVES. Who will save us if they get sick because they do not have sufficient equipment to protect them?</p>
04/02/2020 12:21 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Maryann Crea	"Please act swiftly to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now will bring billions in federal funding, and make sure that people who lose jobs can still get affordable health coverage to stay healthy, and be ready to work again after the crisis is over.??Thank you."

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/02/2020 12:30 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Rakendred Holley	I'm a Goundskeeper/Custodian at South Central High School, Winterville, NC. I'm speaking on behalf of all the classified workers, and state workers amongst others. I believe we deserve a significant raise during this pandemic and afterwards. We are here working and are considered "essential staff". We're already making below what is needed to keep up with the economy for the next five years not including the last five years. We deserve to make or have our salaries as classified workers bumped up to \$18/hr who don't already make it. Those who do, they deserve more too. Why? Because when you value your employees, the only appreciation shouldn't only be food or "thank you" but some compensation. The Bible tells us that "the servant is worthy of his/her hire." The kids are being fed with meals delivered to them. The cafeteria is open to have them come and get something to eat. They are getting materials available for them to use to get taught at home by teachers(which I know can be a challenge itself). We're getting paid and thank God for that. But I believe we should be compensated for working in and through this pandemic. We're out in it. Suppose that was one of our members here at South Central High School that came back with the COVID-19. We would all have to be tested and pray we didn't get it. It's a dangerous situation.
04/02/2020 12:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Tyler Walters	I write in support of the NC State Board of Elections Recommendations to Address Election-Related Issues Affected by COVID-19. Please make all possible efforts to facilitate voting during this health crisis.
04/02/2020 12:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Rheba Heggs	Please expand Medicaid and cover the uninsured. It's a matter of maintaining the public health,
04/02/2020 12:52 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Patricia Knaudt	<p>Please expand Medicaid to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now will provide NC with needed federal funding, and make sure that people who are losing their? jobs can still get affordable health coverage, obtain treatment when needed, and? be ready to work again after the crisis is over.??</p> <p>Inability to pay for medical services will be a barrier for some who will forgo care when needed and result in avoidable deaths. Increasing numbers of uninsured will also leave hospitals in a deficit from providing a more services without payment, and will leave patients with medical debts that will impede personal financial recovery for families and also hamper the economic recovery of our state.</p> <p>Failure to expand Medicaid was never a sensible policy decision, but with the current medical crisis of a zoonotic viral pandemic, it would be irresponsible, unethical and will needlessly prolong the struggle of the citizens of NC. Thank you for your consideration of this critical matter.</p>
04/02/2020 12:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Amy Oliphant	"Please act swiftly to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now will bring billions in federal funding, and make sure that people who lose?jobs can still get affordable health coverage to stay healthy, and?be ready to work again after the crisis is over.??Thank you."
04/02/2020 01:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Test Everyone Julie Ingram	When will we be able to have everyone in North Carolina tested for COVID 19? It seems to me to be the only way to get accurate data and slow transmission of the virus?

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
04/02/2020 01:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joan Rehm	PLEASE, PLEASE, PLEASE begin working immediately on mail-in ballots for the November 2020 elections. It is unclear what the state of health will be in our country and it is imperative that the election occur without delay. Mail-in ballots will assure that will happen. Thank you.
04/02/2020 01:20 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Dorothy Borden	We have an opportunity to care for our needy children through expanded Medicaid . Please don't let the help from this bill slip by.
04/02/2020 01:33 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lisa Riegel	<p>Thank you for your hard work in helping our state respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. On behalf of our 1.1 million members, their families and older adults in North Carolina that are rightfully concerned about maintaining social distance, AARP NC recommends that the legislature take any action needed to help voters keep themselves safe, while still exercising their right to vote.</p> <p>According to U.S. Census Bureau data for the 2016 presidential election, 71 percent of Americans over the age of 65 voted. Moreover, people over the age of 65 show up to the polls far more than any other age group. However, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that people over 60 years of age, and those with serious health conditions such as heart disease, diabetes, and lung disease are at highest risk for severe disease and death from coronavirus-related illness. Risk of serious illness and death increases with age, with the highest risk of death among people over the age of 80.</p> <p>Residents of a portion of our state are scheduled to go to the polls on June 23rd for a primary election runoff. All residents of North Carolina are scheduled to vote on November 3rd . While we would all hope that this crisis would have abated by then, it's prudent for North Carolina to be prepared to conduct an election that will be at least somewhat affected by the need for voters to continue to engage in social distancing practices – practices which are incompatible with standing in long lines to vote. In order to protect North Carolina's voters, not to mention election officials who staff polling locations, we believe North Carolina should begin efforts now to develop alternative means for voters to cast their ballot that do not require them to physically go to a polling station, before it is too late.</p> <p>One way to do that would be to have the state mail all registered North Carolina voters an absentee ballot – without requiring the voter to make an absentee ballot request. Going completely to vote-by-mail elections in this manner would have the state prepared no matter what is happening this fall and would avoid the issue of putting poll workers and voters at risk.</p> <p>According to the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL), five states conduct all elections entirely by mail now (Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington State, and Utah). At least another 21 allow voting to take place by mail in some elections. In these "vote-by-mail" elections, all registered voters would receive a ballot in the mail. After they mark their selections they put their ballot in what is known as a secrecy envelope, put that in a separate mailing envelope, and return the ballot by mail or by dropping it off at a designated location. The voter may also be required to sign an affidavit on the outside of</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>the mailing envelope regarding their identity. This last provision would allow the state to eliminate or ease the provision that requires an absentee ballot be signed by two witnesses or a notary, which could be difficult, if not impossible, for most voters under the current circumstances.</p> <p>According to NCSL, there are reports that vote-by-mail elections increase turnout. They can also lead to long-term cost savings to the state through decreased staffing expenditures – though there are increased printing and up front equipment costs. More importantly, in the midst of a health crisis, it enables voters and election workers to feel safe by not requiring them to go out to participate.</p> <p>Using an all vote-by-mail system for this year's elections would require the state to be prepared to print, distribute, collect, and count more absentee ballots than would traditionally be expected in presidential election years. We believe it would also require the state to conduct additional outreach and education to ensure that voters know that this is an option, including providing easy-to-access points of entry to request absentee ballots.</p> <p>Should North Carolina choose to expand absentee voting to, in effect, go to an all vote-by-mail system for this year's elections, we request expanding the use of Multipartisan Assistance Teams (MATs). Currently the teams are run by each County Board of Elections to assist those in facilities such as nursing homes, hospitals, and assisted living facilities request and submit absentee ballots. We believe the role of MATs could be expanded to assist anyone outside of facilities who doesn't have a near relative of legal guardian and needs assistance with submitting a ballot. Expansion of MATs would require both government and community outreach and education.</p> <p>Again, thank you for your service to our great State and your prompt attention to this matter during such an unprecedented time.</p>
04/02/2020 01:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Samuel Rosin	I support a comprehensive vote-by-mail system for the November elections (and any other upcoming elections). It is very important that all North Carolinians have the opportunity to vote safely from home, especially during the current pandemic.
04/02/2020 02:00 PM	Education Working Group	School Nutrition Associat Rachel Beaulieu/Lobbyist for SNA-NC	<p>School Nutrition Association of North Carolina 3.27.20</p> <p>Need For Emergency Funding Now to Feed More Hungry NC Children</p> <p>NC School Nutrition Workers are on the Front Lines of Feeding NC Children Every Day: In the last two weeks, since March 14, 2020, we have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opened over 1,000 sites in North Carolina to serve students nutritious meals. 2. Nearly 2,000 buses have been sent out to help serve the students of this great state. 3. Nearly 3 million breakfast and lunch meals have been served to our students. 4. 40,000 supper meals, and over 40,000 snacks have been served to students. <p>We need the General Assembly's and the Governor's help Now!</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>Due to the rapid change of how school nutrition programs do business, there is and will be a revenue shortfall for employee salaries and benefits. While programs are operating at approximately a third of their budget revenues, the employee salary and benefits remain at 100%. This is a problem that will continue to get worse each day schools are shut down. School Nutrition programs cannot continue to operate at such a deficit while continuing to pay their employees and cover the costs of hospitalization benefits. School Nutrition Programs currently receive no state funding for employee salaries or benefits. Federal funds have been cut by approximately 66% due to a decrease in meals served from school days. Using 2018/19 Data, revenues for 12 school days in March across NC would average \$46,888,500. The 12 days of school shutdown in March 2020 will result in federal reimbursements estimated around \$14,775,396. This is an estimated loss in revenue of \$32,113,104 for School Nutrition Programs in North Carolina. Local funds, coming from supplemental sales and student copays, are not there. Without the ability to pay employees, programs will have no one to feed our students. Much like in SL 2018-134 "Hurricane Florence Emergency Response Act" section 4.1(1), we are asking for specific language designating funds for School Nutrition employee costs.</p> <p>*These numbers are changing daily, the deficit continuing to broaden, check back for more accurate data.</p>
04/02/2020 02:01 PM	Health Care Working Group	School Nutrition Associat Rachel Beaulieu/Lobbyist for SNA-NC	<p>School Nutrition Association of North Carolina 3.27.20 Need For Emergency Funding Now to Feed More Hungry NC Children</p> <p>NC School Nutrition Workers are on the Front Lines of Feeding NC Children Every Day: In the last two weeks, since March 14, 2020, we have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Opened over 1,000 sites in North Carolina to serve students nutritious meals. 2. Nearly 2,000 buses have been sent out to help serve the students of this great state. 3. Nearly 3 million breakfast and lunch meals have been served to our students. 4. 40,000 supper meals, and over 40,000 snacks have been served to students. <p>We need the General Assembly's and the Governor's help Now!</p> <p>Due to the rapid change of how school nutrition programs do business, there is and will be a revenue shortfall for employee salaries and benefits. While programs are operating at approximately a third of their budget revenues, the employee salary and benefits remain at 100%. This is a problem that will continue to get worse each day schools are shut down. School Nutrition programs cannot continue to operate at such a deficit while continuing to pay their employees and cover the costs of hospitalization benefits. School Nutrition Programs currently receive no state funding for employee salaries or benefits. Federal funds have been cut by approximately 66% due to a decrease in meals served from school days. Using 2018/19 Data, revenues for 12 school days in March across NC would average</p>

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04/02/2020 02:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Judith Knight	<p>Not sure I have the right category, I apologize if not. I would respectfully suggest that some sort of edict from Gov Cooper be formulated and a policy delivered to the seasonal home owners to urge them to reconsider spending their summers in the mountains this year. Our population of full time residents is currently experiencing a short fall of staples in our stores as it is and an influx of people will only exacerbate this situation. Also, because of the relative isolation of our populace or exposure to corona-19 is probably less than more heavily populated areas where they live. The effect of the influx is going to expose a relatively large (percentage-wise) population of older and more fragile adults to the virus. I do not mean to sound hateful, although I realize I probably do. They are not tax-paying residents Except for sales and real estate taxes and do not claim NC as their homes of record. One of these people told me that he was going to stay in place -- and then proceeded to go to the local Ingle's Grocers, Walmart, and a convenience store to pick up enough supplies to stay in place for 14 days... I do realize Gov Cooper has asked that short-term rentals be shut down and I appreciate his doing that. I just wish something more effective at keeping the "seasonals" home could be enacted.</p>
04/02/2020 02:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Herb Lamb	<p>Medicare is vital for so many NC citizens. Please ACT!</p>
04/02/2020 02:33 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Timothy Lindeman	<p>I urge our lawmakers to immediately expand Medicaid and allow over 500,000 North Carolinians to get health coverage and access care during this pandemic.</p>
04/02/2020 02:34 PM	Health Care Working Group	Shawn Priggel	<p>Please act swiftly to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now will bring billions in federal funding, and make sure that people who lose?jobs can still get affordable health coverage to stay healthy, and?be ready to work again after the crisis is over.??Thank you."</p>