

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

| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name                | Comments   |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| 04/02/2020 03:09 PM | Economic Support Working Group   | Ms Shel Anderson    | <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. We must make sure our 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. I am particularly concerned about the really small businesses, and I hope you can find means to keep them alive and serving the community.</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> |
| 04/02/2020 03:19 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group |                     | Mail in Voting   |
| 04/02/2020 03:21 PM | Economic Support Working Group   | Dr. Patrick Quinn   | <p>What happened to the comment I made on 03/31/2020? That comment was more extensive than this one. The point of my comment was NC should do everything possible to increase and even mandate mask usage and to target social isolation through swab and serological testing. We must know who is currently ill, currently asymptomatic but still infected, and who is producing antibodies. Without these in place we will end up suffering through a much more protracted social isolation program that will destroy much more economic activity, than would be necessary with use of testing and masks.</p>  |
| 04/02/2020 03:23 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Ms Rachel Sternberg | <p>Please join the other states who have made Mail-In Voting an option. It's crucial to have this as a permanent option, not only during the time of Separation during the Coronavirus, but to ensure that all shut-in, disabled, elderly or folks otherwise not able to get to a polling place can participate in the democratic action of voting.....the bedrock of Democracy. Please do the right thing and enact this immediately.....for all our sakes! Thank You.</p>  |
| 04/02/2020 03:40 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Arianna Genis       | <p>My name is Arianna Genis and I am a resident of Mecklenburg County (zip 28208). I listened to the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Care Working Group, and was taken aback by Rep. Lambeth comments that implied that the lack of PPE for healthcare providers and first responders is false and compared it to toilet paper hoarding. We are facing a public health crises; Mecklenburg faces the highest numbers of COVID-19 cases – it is dangerous and misleading for an elected official to imply such a misleading assumption. It is also greatly disrespectful to the healthcare providers and first responders who are on the frontlines saving the lives of North Carolinians. 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>  |

| Date Submitted      | Category  | Name                | Comments  |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
|                     |   |                     | For Rep. Lambeth to imply that our brave healthcare providers are hoarding supplies or unjustly panicking is wrong and will only worsen the damage of this pandemic. 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? We need elected officials to be speaking in an informed manner and not implying wrongful accusations that confuse the public and minimize the impact of the pandemic we are facing.   |
| 04/02/2020 04:00 PM | Health Care Working Group                                       | Dr. Christine Ganis | We formed a 501(c)3 for homeless teens in our county, who are aging out of DHHS. They are high risk in many cases, so we are at the mercy of providers who may or may not appreciate their situation. Many are homeless due to abuse, MH or substance abuse of their parent(s). They need coverage, and in many instances are not even counted, as they are homeless. While we are a well off county, we still have in the range of 70 high school aged "unaccompanied youth." Our non-profit is trying to address housing first. Then the pandemic threatened their jobs!  |
| 04/02/2020 04:20 PM | Health Care Working Group                                       | Mrs. Emily Chapman  | I am concerned that we are continuing to keep all of our state employees at facilities coming to work when we probably should set up teams and send some home to stay healthy and "flatten the curve." Then people could be pulled back in to work as needed when the facilities become short staffed.  |
| 04/02/2020 04:23 PM | Health Care Working Group                                       | Elias Berhanu       | <p>To members of the Health Care Working Group of the COVI-19 special committee: Thank you for everything you are doing to serve North Carolina during this uncertain time. As a volunteer with the American Heart Association, I am sending recommendations for your committee to consider as you work to strengthen our response to this virus. Individuals with cardiovascular disease are at higher risk of adverse health outcomes from COVID-19. 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.</p> <p>Please continue to expand access to and availability of telemedicine services during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that patients can easily access health care expertise while practicing safe social distancing.</p> <p>Thank you for your commitment to improve the health of North Carolinians during this difficult time.</p> <p>Your leadership is appreciated and needed now more than ever.</p> |
| 04/02/2020 04:24 PM | Health Care Working Group                                       | Dr James Damon      | We in North Carolina are about to experience the full force of the dreadful consequences of the Covid-19 outbreak. Many of our fellow citizens do not have the financial resources to pay for the treatments necessary if they contract the Cover-19 virus. It is crucial that medicaid resources available under the ACA be expanded to include all needy citizens in our state. Please move to accept the medicaid resources that will be made available by fully accepting the ACA benefits.   |
| 04/02/2020 04:46 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & | Dr Allen Wilcox     | As an epidemiologist, I have a clear picture of the disruptions yet to come from the COVID epidemic. We cannot let these disruptions interfere with fair and efficient elections. I strongly support mailed ballots without restrictions. The time to start preparations is now.  |

| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name                         | Comments  |
|---------------------|--|------------------------------|---|
|                     | Public Safety) Working Group   |                              |   |
| 04/02/2020 04:55 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Ms Jean McKinney             | Please initiate a vote-by-mail policy this year!  |
| 04/02/2020 04:59 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Retired teacher Kathryn Hunt | Please, please, please reconsider and lift the restrictions our governor has irresponsibly placed on the use of the anti malarial drugs to treat vivid 19. This restriction is unnecessarily resulting in deaths in our state. It has been used quite successfully elsewhere saving countless lives. We should be utilizing ALL measures to save North Carolinians. Shame on our governor and shame on you if you do not act to allow the use of these life saving medications which the CDC is now advocating.   |
| 04/02/2020 05:06 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Dr. Karen Rubin              | We need a bold and sustained response to make sure people across the state are protected through our public programs in healthcare, education, and social services, to ensure that EVERYONE has access to health care and paid sick leave, and a home in which to shelter in place--to protect them, and to protect the larger community. Your leadership is critical in protecting our healthcare providers (via basic supplies) and contain the spread of COVID-19. One of the keys to this would be expanding Medicaid, at least until the economy rebounds, to support all our citizens and their families. |
| 04/02/2020 05:22 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Kathleen DuCharme            | evacuate the small coastal communities except for full time residents, our hospitals can't handle what's going to happen. Dare is a 21 bed hospital, no ICU, for example  |
| 04/02/2020 06:18 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Dr. Jeffrey Collins          | Strongly support comprehensive vote-by-mail in NC for the upcoming Federal, state and local elections in 2020   |
| 04/02/2020 06:30 PM | Economic Support Working Group   | Dean Belk                    | Being a small business owner that employees 10 full time and one part time employee, what is the state willing to do to help. We pay for complete healthcare for all full time employees and full family for 3 of those. Our business had fell off 40%. We can't keep all employees or at full paid for more than a month. We need help from the State!   |
| 04/02/2020 07:46 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Laurie Childres              | I believe it is ESSENTIAL that NC makes Voting by Mail a priority before the November election. In these dangerous times, we simply MUST have this as an option. Not only would it be safer for us NOT to have to make a trip to the polls, but it would ensure that everyone can vote and it would also make our elections more secure from interference. By planning and implementing this option NOW, there will be one less excuse to cancel the election. Please work NOW to implement VOTE BY MAIL. And each ballot should come with a prepaid return envelope!   |
| 04/02/2020 07:58 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Susan Foosness               | Now more than ever, North Carolina needs to ensure access to healthcare by expanding Medicaid. Don't wait while the bodies pile up on Jones Street. Public or private options would be fine - just do it!   |
| 04/02/2020 08:03 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Kim Anderson                 | I respectfully request the NC General Assembly consider Medicaid expansion to address the needs of rural North Carolinians and the health care facilities that serve them.  |

| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name                  | Comments  |
|---------------------|--|-----------------------|---|
| 04/02/2020 08:15 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Covid Mercedes Bravo  | Expand Medicaid now!<br><br>Tell insurance companies to cover all costs associated with testing and care related to covid   |
| 04/02/2020 08:16 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Mrs Marion Brewer     | I am concerned about our 2020 elections. Some States allow voting by mail, please let us in NC do the same to protect us from covid 19 and to allow all citizens to vote. Thank you   |
| 04/02/2020 08:19 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Mr Claude Brwrr jr    | I am concerned about covid-19 and our 2020 election. Please make it possible for us to vote by mail.  |
| 04/02/2020 08:34 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Dr Dana Hagele        | It is critical that we expand Medicaid to meet the healthcare needs of our most vulnerable citizens. This pandemic underscores this need.   |
| 04/02/2020 08:38 PM | Economic Support Working Group   | Dr. Dana Hagele       | It is shocking that our schools are concentrating on the development of feeding stations and bus routes to drop off food. This pandemic has underscored the extreme food insecurity.... and even hunger... that exists in all North Carolina communities.   |
| 04/02/2020 08:53 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Mrs. Julia Smith      | -Make sure that every person in this state is protected from COVID-19 through testing and treatment, regardless of identity or immigration status. Expand Medicaid so that everyone has effective health insurance and provide resources to all hospitals and clinics to cover expenses. No one should go bankrupt from illness. Provide paid sick leave to all workers. Provide all necessary supplies and protection to healthcare workers during this pandemic.<br>-Fix the state's pitiful unemployment insurance program so that everyone who has been laid off, lost employment, whether full-, part-time, gig workers or independent contractors.<br>-Provide assistance so that people don't lose their homes or apartments, have utilities shut off, and have food and medicine during the pandemic and the recovery afterwards.<br>-Provide assistance to small businesses so that they can continue to exist and thrive after the pandemic ends.<br>-Provide wage or income replacement to all persons regardless of identity or immigration status so that everyone has food and shelter.<br>-The emphasis must be on helping the people and small businesses to survive the COVID-19 pandemic until the economy recovers. Steps must be taken to prevent actions that favor big corporations and the wealthy at the expense of the people and small business owners. |
| 04/02/2020 09:18 PM | Economic Support Working Group   | Mrs Rebecca Burmester | It is imperative that NC expand Medicaid at this tumultuous time.   |
| 04/02/2020 09:20 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Mrs Rebecca Burmester | Never before has it been as imperative that NC expand Medicaid.   |
| 04/02/2020 09:20 PM | Education Working Group  | Mrs. Cheryl Riley     | Request to waive achievement testing for K-12 for the 2019-2020 school year.  |
| 04/02/2020 09:51 PM | Education Working  | Mrs. Mary McGinnis    | Please act swiftly to cover the uninsured in North Carolina. Expanding Medicaid right now   |

| Date Submitted      | Category                       | Name             | Comments  |
|---------------------|--------------------------------|------------------|---|
|                     | Group                          |                  | 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 09:57 PM | Health Care Working Group      | Thomas Pahl      | <p>I'm Hyde County Commissioner for Ocracoke Island. As we limit access to Ocracoke and at the same time, continue to rebuild after Hurricane Dorian, we are contemplating our options for the inevitable arrival of COVID 19 in our community. Looking to the State DHHS and the CDC, it is apparent to me that we, the people, have been abandoned. Planning and preparation at the local level is virtually non-existent. Perhaps you may think, if this is so, then why would a local official not just get such a plan in place. And I would like to, but for the efforts of the NCDHHS and CDC to discourage effective actions at the local level. For example, testing...wouldn't we love to plan and provide testing to anyone who exhibits symptoms, in order that we might stay ahead of an outbreak in Hyde County, but there are virtually no test kits. We requested 100 test kits to serve Ocracoke Island, with a population of over 1000 residents. We got one! One. OK, masks. If a resident of the island should be found (or assumed) to be positive, what tools can we provide the family caretakers of that patients? Not masks. Not gloves. Not face shields . Not medications. Advice? Yes, but even then, that advice wont include the suggestion that care givers should use PPE. Even though we know very well that if they don't use adequate PPE, they will become infected and become, themselves, a vector to spread the virus. Why won't NCDHHS and CDC recommend that we acquire masks? Because if we do, as citizens, then the shortage of such equipment for professional HCP's grows even more acute. And we all know that first, you protect the HCP's. It makes sense, but why would we be so woefully unprepared that, as a State and a Nation, we need to steal from one to provide another, when the need across the board, is so great?</p> <p>This is an inexcusable failure.</p> |
| 04/02/2020 10:35 PM | Economic Support Working Group | Miss Camryn Pate | <p>I am asking you to pursue a bold and sustained response to COVID-19 that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drives state level dollars to families and people and ensures that our public programs — from education to healthcare to early childhood to social services — have what they need to respond to this crisis. This includes supporting small businesses like child care centers and retailers.</li> <li>• Fixes North Carolina's unemployment insurance, ensures that *ALL* working people have access to paid sick leave, and provides support to children and families who need help putting food on the table and finding a home to shelter in.</li> <li>• Makes sure our healthcare professionals have the protection and supplies they need to face this virus safely; broadens access to free testing and treatment; and gives everyone the ability to practice social distancing and stay home without having to worry about loss of income or being able to meet their basic needs. This includes ensuring that all people have income or wage replacement.</li> <li>• Closes the health insurance coverage gap, provides access to care for *ALL* people regardless of immigration status, and makes sure resources and support are directed to those people who often get left out in policy responses.</li> </ul> <p>I also ask that any response not give tax breaks to large companies without accountability to protect workers. The people must come first!</p>   |

| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name                                   | Comments   |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
|                     |  |  | Thank you for your time and consideration.   |
| 04/02/2020 11:00 PM | Health Care Working Group  |  | Medicaid expansion is needed at this time.   |
| 04/02/2020 11:07 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Mattias Jonsson                        | I always considered it fiscally irresponsible to not expand Medicaid. With a pandemic, expected layoffs, and regular people having to choose between putting food on the table or keeping their house vs accessing health care, it is positively inhumane to not expand Medicaid. And it still makes financial sense to expand. Please do it now.  |
| 04/02/2020 11:43 PM | Health Care Working Group  | David Murr                             | Why is there not more Covid 19 testing being done in Western NC.?  |
|                     |  |  | For the few being tested, why does it take 12 days to get back the results?  |
| 04/03/2020 12:23 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Mr. Robert Poore                       | Please expand Medicaid. With a pandemic, expected layoffs, and regular people having to choose between putting food on the table or keeping their house vs. accessing health care, it is positively inhumane to not expand Medicaid. And it still makes financial sense to expand. Please do it now.   |
| 04/03/2020 06:45 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Ms Laurie Lima                         | This is not a time to engage in party squabbling- expand Medicaid bc it's the BEST thing to do for the people and providers of North Carolina  |
| 04/03/2020 06:46 AM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Ms Laurie Lima                         | Worried about your credit score-IF there is a restructuring of our economic situation and there will be! They can change the criteria for scoring. So a credit score could drop even if you HAVE paid your bills! FREEZE CREDIT SCORES NOW! Thank you  |
| 04/03/2020 06:48 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Out of State people<br>Glenda Dolbeare | What is the point if having a stay at home order when out of state people like tourists and hikers can come into your town and do what they want? Using the limited resources we have, especially in a food desert small town.   |
| 04/03/2020 07:41 AM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Rev. Malinda FILLINGIM                 | In the Leland area, many people disregard the state's requirements for social distancing and stay at home. In public parks there are people constantly in large groups playing basketball, frisbee golf, and other activities. It places all of us in danger. I suggest Brunswick County hold these people accountable for placing us in harm's way. Or, better yet, close places such as basketball courts, frisbee golf, on public parks. If people continue to disregard safety, we will never flatten the curve. There should be consequences. each park needs monitoring. Thanks.   |
| 04/03/2020 08:38 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Kay Castillo                           | <p>The North Carolina Professional Association Council (PAC) includes organizations representing more than 27,000 licensed behavioral healthcare professionals in North Carolina.</p> <p>PAC commends the North Carolina General Assembly on the appointment of the Health Care Working Group on COVID-19.</p> <p>In the last few weeks, as North Carolina has responded to the pandemic, behavioral health providers have stepped up to serve our state. Our providers have helped ease anxiety, depression, and helped patients get access to needed medication to address their mental health conditions. Behavioral health providers are essential in combating this crisis. We have advocated with the state and various insurance companies to recognize our work in</p> |



| Date Submitted | Category | Name | Comments   |
|----------------|----------|------|--|
|                |          |      | <p>the same way that primary care and other healthcare workers have been recognized, by providing reimbursement rates the same for telehealth as for in-person care, and by providing the same coverage for behavioral health care as for primary care.</p> <p>To date, Blue Cross NC, other insurers, and NC DHHS have done a phenomenal job moving the needle so our providers can keep working via flexible telehealth options. Telehealth services will need to continue into the foreseeable future during our state of emergency. After the pandemic, our patients will want to be able to continue to utilize telehealth as individuals and communities try to put their lives back together. In order to do this, we need to continue the flexible telehealth options that have been put into place during this pandemic.</p> <p>We would like the committee to be aware of needed and ongoing reforms from behavioral health providers as efforts are made to address healthcare concerns as a result of the pandemic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Behavioral health providers must be paid for telehealth visits at the same rate as in-person visits across all insurers. This will help providers keep their doors open and will incentivize more telehealth visits rather than in-person visits during the pandemic.</li> <li>• Allow providers to accept verbal consent to participate in treatment with patients via telehealth or telephone services at this time.</li> <li>• Insurance companies must be required to continue coverage of telehealth for behavioral health provider visits in the same way that they do primary care providers.</li> <li>• Insurance companies must be required to cover telephone-only services when a patient lacks access to the internet or has other issues connecting to a video platform to do a video telehealth visit.</li> <li>• Beyond this crisis, the State of North Carolina must take action to enact the telehealth legislation that the House passed to the Senate in 2019. This will ensure HIPAA compliance and will allow for different types of behavioral health providers to bill for telehealth moving forward.</li> <li>• For providers to continue their work, provider licensure laws must be updated for the duration of the state emergency disaster declaration. The following needs to be allowed for behavioral health licensees: Video or telephonic licensee supervision, temporarily online Continuing Education for licensure renewal, and licenses to not be suspended as they meet the work demands.</li> <li>• Only allow the use of other licensees practicing in our state while under a state disaster declaration. Otherwise, we will not be able to monitor who is providing services in our state nor be able to best protect the public.</li> </ul> <p>PAC is comprised of the following organizations and contact information is listed for each:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Addiction Professionals of North Carolina: Sarah Potter, <a href="mailto:spotter@apnc.org">spotter@apnc.org</a></li> <li>- Licensed Professional Counselors Association of North Carolina: Cori Costello, <a href="mailto:yourpresident@lpcanc.org">yourpresident@lpcanc.org</a></li> <li>- National Association of Social Workers North Carolina Chapter: Valerie Arendt, <a href="mailto:varendt.naswnc@socialworkers.org">varendt.naswnc@socialworkers.org</a></li> <li>- NC Association for Marriage and Family Therapy: Cathy Womack, <a href="mailto:cathywomack@customassociation.com">cathywomack@customassociation.com</a></li> <li>- NC Psychiatric Association: Robin Huffman, <a href="mailto:rhuffman@ncpsychiatry.org">rhuffman@ncpsychiatry.org</a></li> <li>- NC Psychological Association: Martha Turner-Quest, <a href="mailto:martha@ncpsychology.org">martha@ncpsychology.org</a></li> </ul> |

| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name                | Comments   |
|---------------------|--|---------------------|--|
| 04/03/2020 08:47 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Ms Colleen Borst    | <p>Kay Castillo, Professional Association Council Chair, kcastillo.naswnc@socialworkers.org</p> <p>We need expanded health care for all!</p>   |
| 04/03/2020 09:06 AM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Mrs. Angie Collins  | Please stop playing politics with our lives.   |
| 04/03/2020 09:08 AM | Economic Support Working Group   | Ms Nina Kilbride    | <p>Please enact a competitive virtual notary statute.</p> <p>It's a public health problem: failure to implement e-notary for wills means lawyers and clients will become vectors of disease as they plan for COVID-19.</p> <p>It's a business problem: for transactions lawyers must recommend our clients use other states' notaries that have national reach, which is going to be bad for future business in NC. We should be able to use NC notaries at this time and going forward.</p> <p>Please copy one of the many good virtual notary statutes already in existence in VA, TX, or MN, for example.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>   |
| 04/03/2020 09:18 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Mr. Curtis Andrews  | <p>I am a long-time consumer of the incredible system of trails and greenways in North Carolina. In fact, they were an important consideration when I moved here in 2007. Today, more than ever, I have come to realize the greater depth that these resources bring to our citizens' physical and mental health. I will be grateful for your consideration regarding funding for trail and greenway construction projects. When I lived in Brewster, Massachusetts and utilized the Cape Cod Rail Trail, I personally experienced the benefits of alternative transportation, healthy outdoor activity, and environmental protection in that state. Furthermore, its impact on local employment was obvious. I ask that you give serious thought to supporting these assets while we work together to be safe and healthy. COVID-19 is now. Safety and health are forever. Please authorize funding for the Recreational Trails Program, the Parks and Recreation Trust Fund, the North Carolina Division of Water Resources, as well as projects to address trail and greenway construction, water quality, park infrastructure, and property acquisition. I sincerely thank you for your consideration.</p> |
| 04/03/2020 10:34 AM | Economic Support Working Group   | Ms. Rebecca LeClair | <p>I would like to suggest that committee members review the following article published in Forbes on March 29, 2020:</p> <p>"Group Testing Is Our Surefire Secret Weapon Against Coronavirus," by Laurence Kotlikoff, professor of economics at Boston University. He says, in part:</p> <p>"Group testing all Americans every day is our surefire secret weapon to save potentially millions of lives and immediately restart the economy. Group testing is a super efficient way of finding out who's infected and who's not. Iceland's doing it. Israel's doing it. Even</p>   |



| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name             | Comments   |
|---------------------|--|------------------|--|
|                     |  |                  | <p>Nebraska's doing it. The President needs to implement this policy immediately with the help of the military. It's that simple."</p> <p>and</p> <p>"There is now a 15-minute coronavirus test. What we need to do is group-household test each day. The method is simple. A testing mobile, manned by military personnel, would come to your street early each morning. The members of your household and maybe another 9 (the best number is yet to be determined) would be invited to provide a swab sample. All the swabs of all the households would be collectively used to test if any of the swabs was positive. Fifteen minutes later your group of households would either be cleared to go to work and frequent stores, restaurants, and other establishments for the day or not. If you're cleared, you'd get a green bracelet that would automatically change to red after 24 hours. Those with green bracelets would be returned to normal society. If your group of households tested positive, subgroup testing would be done, on the spot, until it was discovered which of your group's 10 households was infected and which weren't. Those households that were infected (had one or more infected members) would need to go into quarantine."</p> <p>Thank you for your work on these important issues.</p> |
| 04/03/2020 10:50 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Alice Wernicki   | How can we justify not doing this? "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."  |
| 04/03/2020 10:53 AM | Health Care Working Group  | Donna Carey      | During this unprecedented time with the Covid19 Pandemic the hospitals throughout NC need all the equipment to handle it. PPE's, Ventilators, tests preferably the 15 minute ones in all medical centers.  |
| 04/03/2020 11:47 AM | Economic Support Working Group   | Mr. Lowell Simon | Many of us are working to feed people in need. However we are being limited to small purchases of things like potatoes, rice and other products. Could there be some sort of official exemption for charitable organizations when we are buying for multiple families?   |
| 04/03/2020 11:51 AM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Mr. Lowell Simon | Our County Commissioners have an emergency plan that they are not following. Is there a way to "encourage" County Commissioners to step up and lead in crisis. We have numerous organizations taking it on themselves with no coordinated efforts. As a result, pockets of people are being feed daily while huge gaps of citizens remain desperate.   |
| 04/03/2020 12:55 PM | Health Care Working Group  | Dr. Emily Elstad | I am writing to support Vote by Mail. If we have a second wave of infections (or, God forbid, we are still dealing with the first wave) voting in November will be challenging and even life-threatening without Vote by Mail. Please do the right thing and make voting by mail possible and accessible in NC.  |
| 04/03/2020 02:20 PM | Economic Support Working Group   | Ms. Sanda Ricci  | ou and your staff are very busy with the impact of COVID-19 on people's health and the economy, but there is a third rail: Please google to read Professor/Researcher Jem Bendell (Universiy of Cambria) "Deep Adaptation" paper "The Climate for Corona – our warming world is more vulnerable for pandemic".   |

| Date Submitted      | Category   | Name                                   | Comments   |
|---------------------|--|--|--|
|                     |  |  | <p>Bendell calls this pandemic "another step toward societal collapse". In 2019 both the Washington Post and BBC News reported over 1 million animal and insect species going extinct.</p> <p>The paper explains the link between the worsening global warming and link to pandemics like Covid-19, SARS, and Ebola. It clearly describes the terrible stress our environment is under from man-made pollution so that viruses now jump from animals to humans and vice versa.</p> <p>Bendell's paper should be required reading for everyone but especially leaders. Ironically, on March 27th, EPA loosened environmental restrictions using Covid-19 as the justification polluters can use to pollute with less fear of being sued. Currently, Duke Energy is asking for more taxpayer money to clean up their messes and pay for plants and fossil fuel-carrying pipelines that will never be used and are extremely destructive to the environment.</p> <p>To many of us, the lies communicated and the actions knowingly being committed for greed by oil companies, Utility Monopolies, by the current Administration/EPA and the Media particularly FOX News, are crimes against humanity. The truth about the Global Warming impact is in Jem Bendell's and other scientific papers that the Trump Administration tries to suppress. "Our house is on fire"...says 15 year old Greta Thuneberg. Now I ask you, What will you do?</p> |
| 04/03/2020 02:42 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Mrs. DD Gamble                         | Please, please, allow mail-in voting. The lives of North Carolinians can depend on this. Thank you.  |
| 04/03/2020 02:46 PM | Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group | Lowe's spring Black Friday Lisa Packer | <p>The state absolutely MUST crack down hard on Lowe's. Not only are they not enforcing social distancing nor actually sanitizing the way they claim (my son is an employee) but they are actively advertising the Spring Black Friday sale. Items featured in the ad include mulch, patio furniture and pavers, flowers, lawn care etc. The flyer specifies deals are IN STORE ONLY.</p> <p>Plants that are food should be the only sales allowed in the garden center. Items that are essential for emergency home repairs should be the only other sales allowed, and the number of customers in the store at one time should be strictly limited.</p> <p>Instead, Lowe's is actively endangering the lives of my family. My son is at work now, loading mulch and patio pavers for people who refuse to keep their distance from him and he is NOT ALLOWED to ask them to step back.</p> <p>The Governor's orders are useless as long as this is allowed to continue. They're not listening to your "encouragement." If you allow them to continue, you will be just as guilty for the ensuing deaths as they are. You MUST force their compliance.</p>  |