

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/04/2020 03:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Molly De Marco	I would like to encourage the use of vote-by-mail for the upcoming General Election and all elections to facilitate voting in our state now in the time of the pandemic and in the future. Please work on a plan to allow for this in all counties in November.
04/04/2020 03:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Rick Wynne	It is important to me that our election process is protected against any disruptions due to the pandemic. Our state should make very effort to ensure that anyone who wants to vote will be able to do so without any unnecessary obstacles. Early voting and mail-in ballots should be encouraged.
04/04/2020 04:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Helen Kalevas	North Carolina citizens should be allowed to vote by mail by the November elections.
04/04/2020 04:40 PM	Education Working Group	1983 Chelcea Jackson	Don't leave it up to the buisness owners to "hopefully they'll give it to their workers.." Uh no! Trump is not capable to handle real life. I have docs and medication, most important, my epilepsy meds, which keep me from having a seizure. We are all struggling.
04/04/2020 04:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Peter Somers	I feel that NC should change from in-person voting to vote by mail to ensure all eligible voters can vote and to keep poll workers and volunteers safe during the current and potential future epidemics.
04/04/2020 06:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Catherine Shoemaker	Make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond. Our hospitals and community health centers need to keep their doors open during this public health crisis by being compensated for the lifesaving care they provide. With so many uninsured North Carolinians, Medicaid expansion is the fastest and most effective way.
04/04/2020 06:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Porter	Please start working NOW on a mail-in voting system for November. We cannot trust that the Coronavirus disaster will be over, and we must have our election. Start work on this NOW - do not wait, please.
04/04/2020 06:48 PM	Health Care Working Group	Karen Porter	If ever this state needed expanded Medicaid, it is now. I have never understood why we don't have it already - no-brained. Get to work on this NOW for all our citizens!
04/04/2020 06:50 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Porter	Please protect our incarcerated citizens, who are at high risk in this pandemic. They deserve and desperately need help in this situation. Please act NOW.
04/04/2020 06:50 PM	Economic Support	Karen Porter	If we ever needed expanded unemployment compensation, it is now to protect all our

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	Working Group		citizens in this time of pandemic war. Please act now to give this protection to all our workers.
04/04/2020 06:51 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Catherine Shoemaker	Please protect the prisoners from Coronavirus.
04/04/2020 06:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Sandra Lynch	Please consider mail in voting!!
04/04/2020 06:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	gracie kirchgessner	really would like to see legislation for mail in ballots going forward.
04/04/2020 06:54 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Catherine Shoemaker	I agree with the NC Justice Center– “At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.”
04/04/2020 06:54 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Sandra Lynch	Please support Medicaid expansion!
04/04/2020 06:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Sandra Lynch	Please support expansion unemployment!
04/04/2020 07:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rev. THOMAS LINK	Mail in voting procedures and materials distribution must be implemented immediately to be ready for the November election.
04/04/2020 07:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. and Dr. Vera and Yul Reinstein	Now more than ever is the time to expand NC Medicaid.
04/04/2020 07:26 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Suzanne Haff	I'm 76 and well. I enjoy voting in person, but I would like to have the option of voting by mail - never know what November will bring and this year I believe my vote is especially important. I feel afraid, not just for the virus but because I think our democracy is being destroyed by the current crooks and we need a change.
04/04/2020 07:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Suzanne Haff	All citizens need basic insurance and ease to get medical care when necessary. The way it is now, it is like a 3rd world country.
04/04/2020 07:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. and Dr. Yul and Vera Reinstein	Please support of a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of our NC's COVID-19 contingency-planning around November's general election.

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04/04/2020 07:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Steve Sunshine	Please support Medicaid expansion...saves hospitals makes us all healthier and saved lives
04/04/2020 07:40 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Connie Mullinix	Medicaid would help North Carolinians deal with Covid-19, especially in rural areas of our state. Without the Medicaid funds, our health care providers can not get reimburses for the care they give. People sick from the virus with go to emergency rooms, be admitted to hospitals, receive care but will not be able to pay for the care. Medicaid funds can go a long way keeping our hospitals solvent and our state financially viable.
04/04/2020 07:42 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Steve Sunshine	Address covid-19 in prisons.
04/04/2020 07:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Steve Sunshine	Make unemployment insurance sound and adequate to support families
04/04/2020 07:45 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Diane Williams	I'm 76. I moved here from Florida last year where I depended on voting by mail every year. I tried to vote absentee here in the fall. There is no record of my vote. I care very much about people and politics. Voting by mail is essential for many of us.
04/04/2020 07:47 PM	Education Working Group	TA/BD/Custodian Ed SMITH	Our district is requiring custodians to work moving furniture and waxing floors. No PPE is being provided as leadership has instructed personnel to practice social distancing. This is impossible when 3 people are breathing hard trying to move heavy furniture. It really is imperative since school nutrition workers have become infected and forced food preparation sites to shut down and entire staffs be quarantined.
04/04/2020 07:56 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Nancy Elkins	We desperately need Medicaid expansion. Such action is a no-brainer, particularly when it is offered essentially free of cost to our state.
04/04/2020 08:03 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Barbara Thaden	I believe now is the time to expand Medicaid coverage. So many of our vital employees in the food industry (those who are still employed) don't make enough money to buy health insurance on the open marketplace and don't have affordable health care through their employers. The health of our state and the survival of rural hospitals could be greatly benefited by expanding Medicaid coverage. We need to show these essential service employees that they are valued and appreciated.
04/04/2020 08:08 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Annie Caulkins	Medicaid expansion is critical at this time. Please don't hesitate to do what's necessary to see that people who need it can be covered.
04/04/2020 08:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Annie Caulkins	"People in prisons, jails and detention centers are uniquely vulnerable in this moment of a public health emergency. People in confinement have no control over their own movement and are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19. It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in our communities by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, medical staff and correctional officers." - Chantal

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			Stevens, Interim Executive Director, NC ACLU.
04/04/2020 08:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Annie Caulkins	At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/04/2020 08:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Robert Jenks	It is essential that we maintain shelter in place until it is safe to allow people to get together again, based on numbers of new infections.
04/04/2020 08:50 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Rebecca Goz	It is unconscionable for any person to worry about not having health insurance or adequate health care especially in this current covid 19 situation.
04/04/2020 09:01 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Marilyn Carter	I support the recommendations of Democracy North Carolina, which has submitted a letter to the State Board of Elections with suggestions for election administration responses to the challenges posed by COVID-19. In particular, I and my community strongly support the suggestion to develop contingency plans for moving to an all-mail election and protocols for when such a measure should be taken. We MUST be prepared for a worst-case scenario to protect our elections and the integrity of our franchise.
04/04/2020 09:03 PM	Health Care Working Group	Elizabeth Losos	Now is the time that we need to act to expand Medicaid, or else we will be behind other states in being able to access federal dollars to help with this public health emergency.
04/04/2020 09:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Elizabeth Losos	Please begin planning now for vote by mail for the November election because, if the second COVID-19 wave were to hit at just that time, we would not want the voters of North Carolina to choose between their health and their representation.
04/04/2020 09:38 PM	Education Working Group	Vicki Boyer	In light of the coronavirus it will be imperative that our school districts be given flexibility in the school year schedule. This virus will come back in the fall. NC schools NEED the option of hold summer-time classes. I understand the financial importance of the summer tourist industry on our coast--I'm a native of Wilmington and grew up on Wrightsville Beach. But beach house rentals are not limited to families who live in NC. This is a case where, as difficult as it is, the education of the children has to come first. Give each NC school system the authority to set their own class schedule over the next 2 years. Give them flexibility to deal with what could be school closures in their part of the state on an as needed basis. Thank you.
04/04/2020 09:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joan Guilkey	Voting by US Mail is working well in California. Please pursue this immediately so the procedure can be used in the Nov. elections. It saves voter time, is safe, and saves money for voters and Boards of Elections.
04/04/2020 09:44 PM	Continuity of State	Sam Eneman	I support the State Board' of Elections recommendations for how we can respond to the

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>crisis and ensure our elections remain safe, secure and accessible to all voters.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -- Make it easier for all NC voters to have the ability to cast a ballot by mail -- Provide counties the resources to recruit more pollworkers for November -- Give counties the flexibility they need to create, and more funds to support, early voting plans that reflect the needs for the fall election.
04/04/2020 09:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vicki Boyer	<p>It is imperative that NCGA protect the sanctity of our vote. Given the fact that the coronavirus MAY experience a resurgence in the fall, at this time we must be prepared for flexibility in planning the November 2020 election. It is necessary to provide for any possible method of voting that will promise a fair election. I encourage you to plan to allow excuse-free absentee voting to be used as widely as possible. Give our election boards the funding they need to accomplish this goal. Given that we may have a return to social distancing requirements, requirements for 2 witnesses for absentee ballots is incredibly inappropriate. And unhealthy for citizens. In addition, we need broader early vote times and schedules. NCGA needs to help fund any necessary monies for the purchase of voting machines, and demand that every county use paper ballots. Thank you very much.</p>
04/04/2020 09:55 PM	Health Care Working Group	Vicki Boyer	<p>In light of the coronavirus it is now imperative that NCGA act to expand Medicaid. In the broadest sense possible. This will allow us to care for the most people as this wave of Covid19 rolls across the state, and help us again when it returns. It will be the best thing for our state. Thank you.</p>
04/04/2020 09:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ELIZABETH YOUNG	<p>Public health requires changes to how we vote to ensure free and fair elections. I am expressing my support of a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency-planning around November's general election.</p> <p>?</p>
04/04/2020 09:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	ELIZABETH YOUNG	<p>Our hospitals and community health centers need to keep their doors open during this public health crisis by being compensated for the lifesaving care they provide. With so many uninsured North Carolinians, Medicaid expansion is the fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond.</p>
04/04/2020 09:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ELIZABETH YOUNG	<p>The uninsured in rural counties will benefit the most from Medicaid expansion. Thank you</p> <p>"People in prisons, jails and detention centers are uniquely vulnerable in this moment of a public health emergency. People in confinement have no control over their own movement and are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in our communities by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, medical staff and correctional officers." - Chantal Stevens, Interim Executive Director, NC ACLU.</p>
04/04/2020 10:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	ELIZABETH YOUNG	<p>At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p>

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			<p>Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p>
04/04/2020 10:14 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Judith Ernst	Given the pandemic and how it may impact our ability to vote, NC should definitely put into place a vote by mail system.
04/04/2020 10:18 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Emily Larsen	I urge your committee to push to expand Medicaid now. This pandemic is a perfect example of how important it is for all NC citizens to have access to quality, affordable healthcare. By denying Medicaid to our neighbors who need it most, you are hurting all of us! When these citizens start to feel sick, they aren't as likely to see a doctor. That is awful and NC lawmakers are to blame! Expand Medicaid now!
04/04/2020 10:25 PM	Education Working Group	Expand ABM voting Chris Telesca	<p>The NCGA must get off its ass now and start looking at how people are going to vote from now on.</p> <p>Everyone registered to vote must have the ability to vote by mail without having to endanger their life or health by seeking out many different people to witness their signatures.</p> <p>There must also be better voter education to teach people from all walks of life how to get a ballot, how to mark it and mail it safely. And how to avoid the types of ABM fraud that occurred in Bladen County in 2018, as well as vote buying (where an employer or landlord gets a voter to mark their ballot a certain way to not lose their job or place to live).</p> <p>Already states trying to hold primary elections are having problems getting enough staff to show up. Why should older people (most of our poll workers are older people) risk their lives to work the polls without adequate PPE? Did that matter, why should voters risk their life waiting in long lines to vote? And if the lines were long before, they'll be much longer in November, with poll workers having to swab down each and every place a new voter touches - from the desk where they state their names, to the desk where they are issued a ballot, to the polling booth and scanner. All of those places will need to be swabbed down and allowed to dry before a voter can put down or insert a ballot.</p> <p>And imagine all those counties - like Mecklenburg that just spent \$15 million on new touchscreen Ballot Marking Devices. They'll have to swab down each and every touchscreen and button on each machines - shortening the lifespan of these machines and causing even more screen calibration issues (the disinfectant will dissolve the cement holding the touchscreen layer to the video screen). And touchscreens are germey even in the best of times - and much more so in the worst of times.</p> <p>So I urge the NCGA to go into emergency session to move our state over to 100% ABM/VBM and stop the foolishness thinking that there is massive voter fraud that requires even</p>

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			<p>more silly laws that they've passed over the years that the courts have shot down.</p> <p>You govern by the consent of the governed. Right now it's too deadly to vote in person, so please get a move on!</p>
04/04/2020 10:34 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. William Watson	<p>On what projected model of infections and mortality did the State shut down nearly all economic activity in the State by the governor's "shelter-in-place" executive order? Is this model's projections being compared to reality? If so, how frequently? If the model's projections appear to be wrong or its projected numbers decrease, would that change the duration of the "shelter-in-place" order?</p> <p>Thank you, Bill Watson Durham, NC</p>
04/04/2020 11:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Emily Larsen	<p>I urge your committee to listen to the requests from the NC Election Board. Please allow voters to request an absentee ballot through an online portal and return the form through email. Please do not require the voter to get a notary signature for the absentee ballot request. In addition, please consider including postage with all absentee ballots. I hope I can count on this committee to do what is right and make sure every NC voter has easy and safe access to vote this fall!</p>
04/04/2020 11:29 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Tracy Pyle	<p>I think the restrictions, i.e. the list of essential employees, is NOT restrictive enough to protect the public and even more important, threatens the Continuity of State Operations by endangering Emergency service and public safety employees. My wife is an Social Worker whose job requires her continued interaction with the public and the number of people she is required to see face to face amidst a pandemic is still astounding. Even traveling to essential business activities, it appears that there is almost no change in the amount of traffic on the highway and the number of people (especially those of advanced age) who appear to be milling around with no purpose. I cannot believe the number of people who still stand in a gas station only to get to the counter and ask for a lottery ticket. The list of "essential people" is too easy to take advantage of with any well placed excuse. More needs to be done to protect the general public.</p>
04/05/2020 12:23 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lucy Gorham	<p>With the upcoming general election only months away, the state must move quickly to ensure that all eligible voters are able to exercise their franchise despite the conditions imposed by COVID-19. I strongly support the recommendations laid out by the NC Board of Elections which are carefully thought out and can ensure a smoothly-operated election in which the public can have full trust. In particular, it's vitally important that vote by mail options, including easing the restrictions on absentee balloting as laid out in the Board's recommendations, are fully implemented. Thank you for your consideration and for your support of a fully functioning democracy in this unique time in our history.</p>
04/05/2020 12:30 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lucy Gorham	<p>In this time of a public health crisis due to Covid-19, NC must do everything in its power to ensure that all of its citizens have access to health care treatment and that our health care system, and our rural hospitals in particular, have the financial support they need to operate in an effective manner. One way to accomplish this which would bring in significant federal financial resources to the state is to expand Medicaid. It is ethically unsustainable to have a group of people who earn too much to qualify for Medicaid and are left with only high cost options which they cannot afford. This group now includes a</p>

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04/05/2020 12:38 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Lucy Gorham	<p>fast-growing number of people who have recently lost their jobs and now must struggle to pay for housing and food. It is time to put partisan arguments to bed and respond to this health care crisis. We cannot slow the spread of COVID-19 if an entire group of state residents have no access to health care treatment. Thank you.</p> <p>Unemployment insurance is one of the most effective means to stabilize economies during an economic downturn. Unfortunately, North Carolina's Unemployment Insurance system is less able to keep workers from being pushed into deeper economic hardship or stabilize the economy. Achieving the greatest economic boost from UI requires that the NC General Assembly increase the number of workers able to access the program and improve the adequacy of the benefits to replace lost wages. Legislators should also return the provision that allowed people to access the system if they face illness or must care for a sick family member. Taken together, a comprehensive set of changes to the state's UI policy can ensure that workers aren't disproportionately hurt in this moment and the future. Such changes should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Use the highest quarter or the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of UI benefits for every worker; Remove the cap of \$350 on maximum UI benefits to calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state; Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available to workers without earnings from work; and Ensure workers can receive UI for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. <p>To avoid worsening the recession we're heading into, these changes will benefit the economy for all of us and help to support workers who have lost jobs due to COVID-19 due to no fault of their own. Thank you.</p>
04/05/2020 12:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lucy Gorham	<p>The recent news about staff and inmates at correctional facilities being diagnosed with COVID-19 raises immediate concerns about their health and safety given their unique vulnerability. Attorney General Barr has outlined measures such as releasing elderly inmates and others who have served out most of their sentences, considering alternate forms of supervised release for nonviolent offenders, etc. A minor offense should not become a death sentence due to COVID-19. Please enact measures to ensure the health and safety of the staff and incarcerated inmates at detention facilities. Thank you.</p>
04/05/2020 08:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Gottlin	<p>Please institute a vote-by-mail system as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency-planning around the November general election. It is essential to allow our citizens to vote without the danger of transmitting or being infected by the virus when present in crowds of people at polling locations. Thank you.</p>
04/05/2020 08:05 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Gottlin	<p>Now is the time for Medicaid expansion. The coronavirus epidemic is just going to get worse and there are many uninsured North Carolinians. Hospitals will need to be reimbursed for their care.</p>
04/05/2020 08:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mail in Voting Peter Hollis	<p>No brainer to establish more mail in voting for the upcoming election. With the pandemic keeping folks out of the polls is a very good idea.</p>

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04/05/2020 08:12 AM	Health Care Working Group	Support Medicaid Expansio Peter Hollis	The virus will be a financial disaster for poor people who may otherwise qualify for Medicaid but currently do not. Over the long haul it will be much cheaper for the economy and the state to expand Medicaid.
04/05/2020 08:14 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Gottlin	You need to have a humane solution for controlling coronavirus in prisons. Prisoners are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19. Corrections officers are also vulnerable in this situation. Please consider releasing those prisoners who are not a threat to public safety in order to reduce the population.
04/05/2020 08:15 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Sherene Min	Medicaid Expansion - this crisis is going to quickly highlight why it was a mistake not to expand Medicaid. From the lack of funding to rural hospitals to the crush of costs that will be incurred by North Carolinians who cannot afford high hospital costs, we will see a great crisis in the NC healthcare system due to not expanding Medicaid. This is the time to set aside partisan politics and do what is best for our state in the setting of a severe crisis.
04/05/2020 08:17 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Gottlin	In the time of pandemic when so many people have lost their income, we need to expand unemployment benefits. The NC Justice Center suggestions below seem reasonable, but please do what you can. Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available.
04/05/2020 08:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Sherene Min	We need to restore faith in our government, and we can do that by instituting comprehensive and secure vote by mail this November. Otherwise, North Carolinians will continue not to trust our government officials, which could mean not following much needed rules during the next crisis. The General Assembly needs to set aside partisan politics and do what is right for our state to ensure fair elections and protect the health of North Carolinians. Do what is right for NC, rather than what is right for the Republican Party.
04/05/2020 08:23 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr Sherene Min	At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. The best ways via government economic support to do that are as follows: Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard. With this temporary economic strain, we can avoid a depression by keeping North Carolinians without income afloat while we restart the economy.
04/05/2020 08:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Dr Sherene Min	People in prisons, jails and detention centers are uniquely vulnerable in this moment of a public health emergency. People in confinement have no control over their own movement

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		and are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19.
			Please consider following what other states have done by reducing the prison population to ensure the health of both prisoners and the staff at prisons and detention centers. This action will reduce the risks of significant illness in the prison population and staff, thus doing the right thing for humanity and reducing the potential cost to the NC taxpayers. Otherwise, we will have an excess amount of significant illness and/or deaths on our hands. Extraordinary times require extraordinary action.
04/05/2020 08:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Heiderose Kober	The right to vote is even more important during difficult times such as these. People need to choose the leadership that they believe is most capable to see us through this pandemic and its aftermath. Given the emergency that COVID-19 presents, NC needs to increase access to mail-in absentee voting as well as make it less cumbersome by removing some of the obstacles that could deter voters or invalidate a ballot. We also need to plan to open more sites and expand early voting in case we still need to practice social distancing as well as hire more more poll workers. Also, we need to implement online voter registration as soon as possible.
04/05/2020 08:43 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Heiderose Kober	If we learned anything from this pandemic, providing access to healthcare is the moral duty of every elected and appointed official. With so many uninsured North Carolinians, Medicaid expansion is the fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond. It is incomprehensible that anyone would stand in the way of giving aid to our NC communities during their greatest healthcare need.
04/05/2020 08:52 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Heiderose Kober	People in confinement are held in close, often overcrowded, quarters without the ability to practice social distancing or adequate hygiene, thereby creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19. It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, medical staff and correctional officers. We also need to consider reducing the number of incarcerated people by allowing non-violent prisoners to serve out their sentences under house-arrest.
04/05/2020 08:56 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Heiderose Kober	<p>North Carolina has one of the most miserly unemployment protections in the country. At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. 2. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. 3. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. 4. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/05/2020 09:02 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Reverend Susan Gladin	Please do everything in your power to ensure fair elections this fall as well as protecting public safety. Provide mail in ballots!

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04/05/2020 09:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Elizabeth Havice	As part of your work to ensure Continuity of State Operations in the face of COVID-19, it is urgent and essential that our state has a plan for free, fair and safe elections that will allow everyone to vote while not endangering public health, the health of individual voters and of volunteers at polling station who are often older retirees and thus more vulnerable to COVID-19. I support comprehensive vote-by-mail systems as part of North Carolina's planning for the November general election. With the high level of uncertainty about how the pandemic will continue to unfold, we must have these plans in place as soon as possible.
04/05/2020 09:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Adam Versenyi	<p>I urge you to support mail-in voting for elections given the escalating pandemic in our state. Mail-in voting has taken place for years in both Washington and Oregon state and, in fact, has increased participation.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adam Versényi 205 Oleander Road Carrboro, NC 2751-</p>
04/05/2020 09:42 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Adam Versenyi	<p>I urge you to support Medicare Expansion in North Carolina. The state's citizens living in rural counties will be the ones most to benefit by this action, since those areas lack the medical infrastructure of urban areas.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adam Versényi 205 Oleander Road Carrboro, NC 27510</p>
04/05/2020 09:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Adam Versenyi	<p>I urge you to support actions to protect incarcerated populations and support staff from the ravages of Covid-19. Those in prisons, jails, and detention centers are among the most vulnerable during a public health crisis.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adam Versényi 205 Oleander Road Carrboro, NC 27510</p>
04/05/2020 09:46 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Adam Versenyi	<p>I urge you to support unemployment insurance expansion. During this public health and economic crisis it is imperative that we enable North Carolina's citizens ability to meet their most basic needs.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Adam Versényi 205 Oleander Road Carrboro, NC 27510</p>
04/05/2020 09:53 AM	Continuity of State	Election by mail Emily	Thankfully, the North Carolina primaries occurred before the mass social distancing

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Burkhead	efforts and various states of emergency declared throughout NC, so that voters were able to cast their ballots. Now, we must make a plan for the general election which allows for mail-in voting to ensure every registered North Carolina voter has a chance to cast their ballot despite potential reduction or cancellation of in-person voting. We cannot yet know how long the stay-at-home orders may be in effect, so it is essential that preparations be undertaken for this effort now. Should restrictions on movement be eased by November, there will still be large numbers of people who could utilize the mail-in voting system, thereby increasing voter turnout and leading us to an even more democratic society. Thank you.
04/05/2020 09:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joy Blevins	As a resident of & registered voter in NC, as a private citizen, I am contacting your working group to ask for your support in developing a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of NC's COVID-19 contingency planning around the November 2020 general election to ensure free and fair access for voting for all NC voters. It is crucial that we plan for a voting system that will maximize participation by NC voters by addressing voting obstacles because of COVID-19. Let NC lead the way in the nation is protecting all voters's precious rite to vote. Thank you for your support. Joy Blevins
04/05/2020 09:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joy Blevins	As a resident of & registered voter in NC, as a private citizen, I am contacting your working group to ask for your support in developing a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of NC's COVID-19 contingency planning around the November 2020 general election to ensure free and fair access for voting for all NC voters. It is crucial that we plan for a voting system that will maximize participation by NC voters by addressing voting obstacles because of COVID-19. Let NC lead the way in the nation is protecting all voters's precious rite to vote. Thank you for your support. Joy Blevins
04/05/2020 09:57 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Brenda McCall	I support Medicaid Expansion in NC. This needs to be done immediately to assure that all NC citizens have access to health care during this pandemic.
04/05/2020 09:59 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Attorney James Williams	People confined in our jails and prisons are among the most vulnerable for contracting COVID-19. It will not remain in those facilities but will foster spread to the surrounding communities as corrections staff, health care workers, and others exposed take it home with them. It is imperative that our leaders take immediate action to lower our prison population to make it possible to implement social distancing and other protocols proven to reduce the spread. Legislative leaders need to impress upon Governor Cooper that he needs to use his powers of clemency, commutation, and reprieve to depopulate now. If not for the sake of those incarcerated, then for the sake of public health.
04/05/2020 10:00 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Doloras Branch	During this time of chaos caused by COVID 19, I believe it is critical for our government to safeguard as many of our democratic institutions as possible. Chief among these is our ability to continue to make our voices hear through voting! Please, please make comprehensive mail in voting an option for ALL North Carolinians. please protect our democracy!
04/05/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Holly McKinney	In the likely event that Covid19 will return in the fall, we must be prepared with a plan and system of mail-in ballots for the critical 2020 election in November. Please do not fail to take action now.
04/05/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State	Ms Sandra (Sam)	Ask yourself this, "If we don't vote, how will you know who you are representing?" Voting

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Brooks	by mail or electronically is the way to go not only during this critical time but in the years ahead. It is past time for Raleigh to move out of the 19th century.
04/05/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Brenda McCall	I support mail in voting in NC to assure that all qualified citizens are assured the right and opportunity to vote without exposing themselves and others to the health risks of Covid 19.
04/05/2020 10:04 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Holly McKinney	The time is now to expand Medicaid in NC. Our most vulnerable citizens deserve to be protected more than ever.
04/05/2020 10:06 AM	Health Care Working Group	1943 William Murray	Let us vote by mail so we don't have to be around others.
04/05/2020 10:06 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Brenda McCall	I support expansion and upgrade of NC unemployment benefits to assure that all citizens can meet the basic needs for themselves and their families.
04/05/2020 10:06 AM	Health Care Working Group	Doloras Branch	I write to implore you to protect ALL North Carolinians by passing Medicaid expansion. This expansion not only helps people but our health care facilities by insuring coverage for individuals while also insuring financial viability of health care facilities which cannot keep providing service without reimbursement. Unfortunately this is a reality of the structure of our health care financing system. Please institute expansion of Medicaid!
04/05/2020 10:07 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. William Murray	Expanding Medicaid is best thing to make sure they uninsured get medical services.
04/05/2020 10:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	William Rigby	<p>Please pass and fully fund comprehensive vote-by-mail elections, at least while this emergency makes it unsafe to congregate at polling places.</p> <p>Prepaid postage for mailed ballot requests and returns. Allow voters to request mail-in ballots by email, fax, online form, or over the phone and honor requests submitted by the one-week deadline. Allow near relatives and legal guardians to request mail-in ballots at polling locations during One-Stop Early Voting and on Election Day. Allow persons other than near relatives and legal guardians to assist voters with requesting, completing, and returning ballots. Allow voters to register by mail up to the mail-in ballot request deadline, allow voters to "one-stop" register to vote and request a mail-in ballot, and restore same-day registration. Allow voters to certify their ballot by providing the signature of one witness or confirming their intent to submit the ballot in-person or over the phone. Allow voters and those assisting voters to return mail-in ballots at One-Stop Early Voting sites and Election Day polling places (including curbside). Count every mail-in ballot submitted by Election Day. Establish a one-step process for registering to vote and requesting a mail-in ballot. Establish a robust and uniform system for notifying voters when the Board determines</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			their ballot request or application is invalid. Develop a tracking system that allows voters to track their ballot from the local Board and on its return from the voter to the local Board.
04/05/2020 10:08 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Holly McKinney	Now, more than ever, NC must expand Medicaid to protect our most vulnerable citizens. Please do what is right ethically and morally!
04/05/2020 10:09 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. William Murray	pls let me vote by mail for my safety
04/05/2020 10:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. William Murray	Improve incarceration conditions so that the virus does not spread there.
04/05/2020 10:10 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Sandra (Sam) Brooks	As of this moment, I am one of the fortunate citizens. Due to my age, 76, I have Medicare and I am healthy. But all that can change on a dime. NC should extend health care to all its residents by expanding Medicare. This will lighten the load at emergency rooms and improving life expectancy for the most fragile of our community, the poor, the homeless, the undocumented.
04/05/2020 10:12 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. William Murray	I support this
04/05/2020 10:12 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Brenda McCall	I support reduction of non-violent inmates and recommended separation of all inmates to protect the imprisoned population and employees of that system.
04/05/2020 10:23 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jane Preyer	Dear NC Legislators on the House Select Committee addressing the "Continuity of State Operations", I write to strongly and urgently ask that you put measures in place now to ensure every citizen has full access to mail-in ballots and other tools that will our state can get full participation in the 2020 election. Providing security and assurance that we will have timely, fair, and free elections is one of the most vital contributions you can make to our state's sense of healing and unity during this difficult time. Please use every tool you have to get voting done by every citizen in every part of our state. Thank you so much for your work now and in the months ahead. Jane Preyer
04/05/2020 10:25 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. George Jackson	A second wave of viral infection is likely this fall assuming we get this initial assault under control. We need to plan for continued social distancing which is not supported by our current election process.
04/05/2020 10:28 AM	Economic Support	Ms Marjorie Coward	I support protecting North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Working Group		expanded unemployment insurance program. Please eliminate the waiting week. Please make sure that workers receive benefits for 26 weeks.
04/05/2020 10:31 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. George Jackson	the current health care chaos is, unfortunately, an example of a broken health care "system" in this country and the state of NC, by not fully implementing the ACA, has made the situation even worse for our most in need
04/05/2020 10:35 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Gerald Donaldson	Please support indigent NC residents by expanding Medicaid. This is crucial for public health improvement.
04/05/2020 10:35 AM	Health Care Working Group	Maggie Sloane	<p>This is to urge you to expand Medicaid in our state. In addition to our current health crisis, I wanted to give you a first-hand idea of what it's like for North Carolina citizens to be deprived of health care coverage.</p>
			<p>I am a Medicaid eligibility worker at Orange County Social Services. I have to deny Medicaid for people on a daily basis who are in need of medical and dental care. What most people don't know is that unless someone has children under 18 in the home, or is pregnant, aged, blind or disabled, they're not eligible for Medicaid, no matter how low their income is. And even if they have children in the home, the income limits are so stringent that if they make even a tiny income, the parents will be ineligible. I constantly have to talk to people who are incredulous at learning that they can't enroll in even basic health care in our state. During the current health and employment crisis, the situation has gotten much worse for our citizens.</p> <p>Here's a picture of just some of the types of people currently denied health care coverage under North Carolina's current system:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The person who works at the daycare caring for your children or grandchildren • Your Lyft/Uber driver • A carpenter who needs a shoulder replacement so he can get back to work • The servers at your favorite restaurants • Your cashier at Food Lion or Harris Teeter • The person hands you your lunch at the fast-food drive-through • Your relative who got laid off • The hair stylist and technicians at the hair and nail salons you or your spouse go to • The guys on your landscaper's crew • Parents with two children with a household income of over \$744/month.
			<p>And this doesn't even include people who aren't eligible for Medicaid at all because they're undocumented, such as your housekeepers, your painters or your roofers.</p>
			<p>If you'd like to fact check this for yourself, visit the North Carolina Division of Health and Human Services website: https://medicaid.ncdhhs.gov/medicaid/get-started/learn-if-you-are-eligible-medicaid-or-health-choice/medicaid-income-and</p>
			<p>If that's not bad enough, our hospitals and community health centers need to keep their doors open during this public health crisis by being compensated for the lifesaving care they provide. With so many uninsured North Carolinians, Medicaid expansion is the fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/05/2020 10:38 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Gerald Donaldson	Please advance representative citizen voting by authorizing mailed ballots with appropriate security protections.
04/05/2020 10:40 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Gerald Donaldson	NC desperately needs additional state funds for underwriting expanded unemployment benefits during this public health/economic crisis,
04/05/2020 10:42 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Michael Fath	I strongly support of a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency-planning around November's general election. Public health requires changes to how we vote to ensure free and fair elections.
04/05/2020 10:44 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Michael Fath	We need Medicare expansion in North Carolina, now more than ever. Medicaid expansion would stabilize hospitals and improve access to health care. Expansion would bolster rural hospital finances.
04/05/2020 10:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Michael Fath	<p>People in prisons, jails and detention centers are uniquely vulnerable in this moment of a public health emergency. People in confinement have no control over their own movement and are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in our communities by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, medical staff and correctional officers.</p>
04/05/2020 10:46 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Michael Fath	<p>At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, we must protect North Carolinian's ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program.</p> <p>Ways to do this (per NC Justice Center): Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p>
04/05/2020 10:54 AM	Health Care Working Group	Jane Preyer	<p>Dear NC Legislators on the Health Care group regarding the Covid-19 crisis, I urge you to expand Medicaid to help our fellow North Carolinians during this very difficult time. Our state needs to step up and ensure our people can get health care immediately. Our economy can only grow when our people are well enough to work.. This is the time to leverage federal resources to help North Carolina in the wisest ways possible, and nothing is wiser or more critical to our state than healthy people who can get health care and begin to get back to work.</p> <p>Thank you so much for your work during this tough time, Jane Preyer</p>
04/05/2020 10:55 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Peter Leone	Please insist and provide support for PPE for health care workers and insist on facial covering for the general public

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/05/2020 10:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Melissa McCullough	WE NEED MAIL IN VOTING!!! This pandemic may not be over in November, and it is the American thing that every registered voter gets the chance to vote, and we should not put peoples lives and health at risk in order to do so. Not only am I unwilling to risk the old and infirm to this, I'm not willing to risk American Democracy!
04/05/2020 10:57 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Peter Leone	Please expand Medicaid. It is essential that all North Carolinians have access and coverage for all health care during this epidemic and the likely economic depression
04/05/2020 10:58 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Martha Whitney	Extend early voting so we can space voters a safe distance from each other. Start voting earlier and put safe measures into place. Expand drive through voting. Secure absentee votes.
04/05/2020 10:58 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Christine Frasca	Vote yes
04/05/2020 11:00 AM	Health Care Working Group	Christine Frasca	vote yes
04/05/2020 11:00 AM	Health Care Working Group	Melissa McCullough	WE MUST EXPAND MEDICAID!! This pandemic has shown in glaring detail the danger of handcuffing health care to jobs. The absence of available medical care for the now-masses of unemployed, will only serve to help spread the pandemic and health care-based bankruptcies. This is unconscionable and very bad for the economy, as well. Health care is a right in every other first world country, it's abominable that we allow such a necessity to be driven by corporate avarice.
04/05/2020 11:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Christine Frasca	Vote yes
04/05/2020 11:02 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Christine Frasca	Vote yes
04/05/2020 11:03 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Christine Frasca	Vote yes
04/05/2020 11:05 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Melissa McCullough	WE NEED TO EXPAND UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS!! Having families drown in debt or poverty because they cannot work from home is inhumane and counterproductive to the economy. Those benefits will go straight into the economy to landlords and grocery stores and farmers, to help keep them afloat. Also, Jesus said, "that which you do for the least of these, my brothers, you do for Me." That's pretty much NOW, folks ...
04/05/2020 11:07 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Melissa McCullough	Please do everything needed to protect incarcerated people and support staff at prisons. They are unable to social distance as well as we outside, and it is our duty as citizens to treat them as fellow human beings. It does not help the prison system to have health care facilities overwhelmed.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
04/05/2020 11:22 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Kevin Tully	<p>Please help communities lower local jail populations in addition to prisons. Outbreaks in these facilities are all but certain and lower populations mean:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Better chance to manage spread and protect the residents and staff INSIDE the facilities. 2. Better chance that less ICU beds and ventilators will be needed for residents and staff AND will remain available for the entire community OUTSIDE these facilities. <p>Please provide PPE for Judicial employees (Clerks, DAs, Public Defenders, Judges) who must continue holding court. The work they are doing is critical and essential but is not being done safely.</p>
04/05/2020 11:23 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Sanra Ricci	Due to Covid-19, please ensure online voting (like the Census) and mail. Thank you.
04/05/2020 11:28 AM	Health Care Working Group	Reverend Susan Gladin	Our state's delay in expanding medicaid has cost the state millions (if not billions) and has cost many people their lives or their savings. It is, in my opinion, a criminal act to delay this expansion and is certainly an immoral one. I hope that the expansion proceeds immediately
04/05/2020 11:29 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Olympia Stone	I strongly support Medicaid expansion
04/05/2020 11:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Olympia Stone	I strongly support enacting vote by mail measures to ensure the safety of our elections
04/05/2020 11:30 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Reverend Susan Gladin	Sadly, our state over the past few years has worked actively AGAINST the needs and well-being of our most vulnerable populations. Given the dire emergency we are in and its affect on working people, especially hourly workers, I hope that you will do everything in your power to take care of those who are unable to work in these (or any) circumstances.
04/05/2020 11:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Olympia Stone	I fully support expanding unemployment insurance to help those in need
04/05/2020 11:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Olympia Stone	I strongly support protecting incarcerated people from COVID-19
04/05/2020 11:40 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Patty Daniel	<p>I have long thought that North Carolina should institute mail-in voting but now with COVID-19 restrictions, there seems to be no better reason to delay. Oregon has demonstrated its effectiveness and leads the nation in voter turnout. Please work to institute mail-in voting both now in this crisis and continuing into future years.</p> <p>Thank you, Patty Daniel</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/05/2020 11:47 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Linda Dinges	I would like to be able to vote by mail due to Covid 19.
04/05/2020 11:47 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Patty Daniel	The COVID-19 crisis only highlights the long-standing need for Medicaid expansion in North Carolina, something we should have done several years ago. With so many uninsured North Carolinians, it is the fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families have access to care. I worked for 30 years as a registered nurse in the UNC Hospital in Chapel Hill and saw first hand how disparities in health outcomes are so closely related to access to care. Please work to ensure Medicaid expansion in NC. Thank you, Patty Daneil
04/05/2020 11:49 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Jane Clunie	We must institute vote by mail to protect our elections this year.
04/05/2020 11:59 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Todd Dickinson	We can't mingle, we shouldn't go out. We MUST vote. Make it as easy as possible.
04/05/2020 12:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Eleanor Weston	I am an NC resident from Orange County. i urge you to support a comprehensive vote-by-mail system this year--during this pandemic, asking voters to visit polling locations in person is asking them to choose between their voice in democracy and their own health. We shouldn't have to make this choice. Please create an option to vote by mail to reduce the spread of this virus and protect our democracy.
04/05/2020 12:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Professor Mary Floyd-Wilson	Please pass and fully fund comprehensive vote-by-mail during this emergency, at least while it is unsafe for people to congregate at polling places.
04/05/2020 12:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Anne Rigby	We need assurance that the upcoming election will be open to everyone. Therefore, we need to make immediate plans to allow all eligible citizens to vote by mail.
04/05/2020 12:27 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Susanne Vergara	At this time of extreme financial distress due to historically unprecedented unemployment triggered by the COVID-19 crisis, it is imperative that we protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs through an expanded unemployment insurance program. Ways to do this: Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/05/2020 12:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Susanne Vergara	People in prisons, jails and detention centers are uniquely vulnerable to COVID-19. They have no control over their own movement and are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the dangerous spread of COVID-19.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/05/2020 12:30 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Susanne Vergara	<p>It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in our communities by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, medical staff and correctional officers.</p> <p>Our hospitals and community health centers need to keep their doors open during this public health crisis by being compensated for the lifesaving care they provide. With so many uninsured North Carolinians, Medicaid expansion is the fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond.</p> <p>The uninsured in rural counties will benefit the most from Medicaid expansion.</p>
04/05/2020 12:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Susanne Vergara	Public health requires changes to how we vote to ensure free and fair elections. Please express your support of a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency-planning around November's general election.
04/05/2020 12:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	alice elliot	Please pass and completely fund comprehensive vote-by-mail during the Covid-19 crisis. Voting is an essential part of our precious democracy. Dismissing this crucial element will surely create additional stress on our fragile systems. All persons registered or eligible to register to vote should be allowed to vote in this manner. Allowing varied assistance and mechanisms for requesting this method are also crucial.
04/05/2020 12:35 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Lanis Wilson	<p>Please pass and fully fund comprehensive vote-by-mail during this emergency, at least while it is unsafe for people to congregate at polling places.</p> <p>Prepaid postage for mailed ballot requests and returns. Allow voters to request mail-in ballots by email, fax, online form, or over the phone and honor requests submitted by the one-week deadline. Allow near relatives and legal guardians to request mail-in ballots at polling locations during One-Stop Early Voting and on Election Day. Allow persons other than near relatives and legal guardians to assist voters with requesting, completing, and returning ballots. Allow voters to register by mail up to the mail-in ballot request deadline, allow voters to "one-stop" register to vote and request a mail-in ballot, and restore same-day registration. Allow voters to certify their ballot by providing the signature of one witness or confirming their intent to submit the ballot in-person or over the phone. Allow voters and those assisting voters to return mail-in ballots at One-Stop Early Voting sites and Election Day polling places (including curbside). Count every mail-in ballot submitted by Election Day. Establish a one-step process for registering to vote and requesting a mail-in ballot. Establish a robust and uniform system for notifying voters when the Board determines their ballot request or application is invalid. Develop a tracking system that allows voters to track their ballot from the local Board and on its return from the voter to the local Board.</p>
04/05/2020 12:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Professor emerita Carolyn Connor	I am strongly in favor of mail-in voting in November. It is the only way to get fair representation in the national presidential election for all citizens.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
04/05/2020 12:54 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Eleanor Weston	I am an NC resident from Orange County. i urge you to support a Medicaid expansion as part of the effort to stop the spread of COVID-19. Medicaid expansion not only cares for the sick and needy--a moral imperative for your Christian constituents like me--but also supports our rural hospitals.
04/05/2020 01:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Eleanor Weston	I am a constituent from Orange County, and I am writing to ask you to take action to protect incarcerated residents and the staff of jails and prisons from exposure to COVID-19. Because prisons and jails pack many people into a small area with little room for social distancing, an outbreak of this virus among these populations would be devastating. Please work to release as many low-risk offenders as possible, support hygiene efforts like hand-washing and face masks, and allow for sick staff to stay home during this time.
04/05/2020 01:08 PM	Health Care Working Group	1953 Nancy Callanan	In this time of crisis due to the coronavirus pandemic, it is imperative to approve Medicaid expansion as a key way to protect North Carolina's uninsured. Medicaid expansion is the fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond. The uninsured in rural counties will benefit the most from Medicaid expansion.
04/05/2020 01:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Nancy Callanan	I am writing to in support of measures to expand unemployment insurance during the crisis caused by the coronavirus pandemic. I am specifically supporting the following recommendations of NC Justice Center. Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits. Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Eliminate the waiting week so that dollars are immediately available. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/05/2020 01:16 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Eleanor Weston	I am a constituent from Chapel Hill, and I am writing to ask you to expand unemployment insurance for NC residents during this pandemic. In particular, I urge you to follow the recommendations of the NC Justice Center (https://www.ncjustice.org/publications/sound-unemployment-insurance-that-serves-workers-is-critical/), which include removing the waiting so that workers who have lost their jobs recently can receive help more quickly, and allow workers to receive the national standard 26 weeks of UI.
04/05/2020 01:41 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Kaselehliia Sielken	I support the use of vote by mail ballots. We have family members who use this in Washington State and it is easy and successful. Thank you.
04/05/2020 01:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	William Branch	I support the vote by mail solution for the upcoming election. This not only insures that all voters have a chance to have their votes counted in this important upcoming election, but also allows everyone to protect themselves an others by reducing their public exposure during the health emergency. Track the results of this voting method so that this voting method can become permanent
04/05/2020 01:59 PM	Health Care Working Group	William Branch	Right is right and fair is fair. I support Medicaid expansion.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/05/2020 02:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Janet Flowers	As the response to the virus has so clearly indicated, we as individuals are actually deeply connected to one another. So, the welfare of one of us impacts the welfare of others. Given this interconnectedness, it is imperative that we expand Medicaid for all so that those most vulnerable are taken care of, whether for themselves or for the good of society. Of course, as a follower of Jesus, I would hope that we take this step because it is right and just and moral.
04/05/2020 02:36 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Janet Flowers	As a long-term volunteer at a local prison, I can attest to the close quarters in which the men live. They live on top of one another. Given that the number one way to prevent the spread of the virus (leading to sickness and death) is by social distancing, we need to release inmates (when appropriate) to prevent the immoral confinement in such a dangerous situation--not only for the inmates but all of our society. As a follower of Jesus, I believe that this is the just and right and moral action.
04/05/2020 02:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Janet Flowers	Although I am retired, I am deeply troubled and concerned about all of our citizens who are losing their jobs. We must do everything in our power to provide a safety net to these individuals. The health and wellbeing of millions rely upon a financial base which must be met through the actions of our state leaders. Thank you.
04/05/2020 02:55 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Molla Donaldson	Please support Medicaid expansion in North Carolina. It saves lives.