

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/05/2020 03:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Patrick Hemming	I am writing to urge the NC Legislature to ensure the ability of all registered NC voters to cast ballots in this year's elections. This must include expanded options for mail-in absentee ballots. With current COVID-19 concerns and what will most likely be long-term concerns about health and safety in voting, we owe it to citizens to make registering and voting as accessible as possible. We need a comprehensive vote-by-mail system.
04/05/2020 03:14 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Patrick Hemming	I am writing to strongly urge the NC Legislature to adopt Medicaid expansion. COVID-19 has only served to make it clearer how dangerous it is for our state to continue limiting access to health care. Please move towards bipartisan, consensus legislation to address this need.
04/05/2020 04:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Janet Chadwick	Expand absentee voting by mail.
04/05/2020 04:19 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr James Protzman	Please do anything and everything you can to make it easier and safer for people to vote. Given the impact of the covid19, a comprehensive vote by mail policy seems more than warranted
04/05/2020 04:24 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr James Protzman	By now it's more than clear that our failure to expand Medicaid is catastrophically bad public policy. Fix. This. Now. Please.
04/05/2020 04:33 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Keith Johnson	Please pass legislation to enable vote by mail for everyone for the November election.
04/05/2020 04:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Joy Blevins	Although I currently live in Chapel Hill, NC, I grew up in rural NC (Ashe County). I am writing the Health Working Group (as an individual NC citizen) to ask that your working group support the expansion of Medicaid in NC to benefit the rural communities and to ensure that all people living in NC have access to healthcare, especially during this pandemic. I am a retired public health professional (graduate degree in public health from UCLA and retired from Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Analyst) and I personally understand the importance of all individuals, especially children, having access to healthcare. I am sure you have access to all the professional studies regarding this issue. As an advocate for social justice, I feel all individuals in US should have access to healthcare. As a scared citizen, I am fearful that the uninsured will not seek medical treatment for their health problems (including for symptoms of COVID-19), and die from the virus and spread to their loved ones and the community at large. And that could mean me, a senior citizen (I am sheltering in place but occasionally have to go buy food as I live alone. Thank you for your support in recommending immediate expansion of Medicaid to NC's rural counties
04/05/2020 04:37 PM	Health Care Working	Joy Blevins	Although I currently live in Chapel Hill, NC, I grew up in rural NC (Ashe County). I am

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	Group		writing the Health Working Group (as an individual NC citizen) to ask that your working group support the expansion of Medicaid in NC to benefit the rural communities and to ensure that all people living in NC have access to healthcare, especially during this pandemic. I am a retired public health professional (graduate degree in public health from UCLA and retired from Los Angeles County Department of Health Services Analyst) and I personally understand the importance of all individuals, especially children, having access to healthcare. I am sure you have access to all the professional studies regarding this issue. As an advocate for social justice, I feel all individuals in US should have access to healthcare. As a scared citizen, I am fearful that the uninsured will not seek medical treatment for their health problems (including for symptoms of COVID-19), and die from the virus and spread to their loved ones and the community at large. And that could mean me, a senior citizen (I am sheltering in place but occasionally have to go buy food as I live alone. Thank you for your support in recommending immediate expansion of Medicaid to NC's rural counties
04/05/2020 05:14 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Elaine Tobin	Please approve Medicaid Expansion! The health of everyone in the state will be in better shape if nobody is unable to get health care now.
04/05/2020 05:56 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lewise Busch	We must pass Medicaid expansion in this emergency. How else will the state pay for Covid-19 treatment and help our hospitals to survive? This is a no-brainer.
04/05/2020 06:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lewise Busch	We must have safe and accessible elections in November. So, we need to be able to vote by mail in this election. This is the only alternative I see that can work for all of us. Thank you for your work on this.
04/05/2020 06:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Heather Minchew	Public health requires changes to how we vote to ensure free and fair elections. I strongly support a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency-planning around November's general election.
04/05/2020 06:12 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Heather Minchew	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. Please expand Medicaid. North Carolina is way overdue to do so.
04/05/2020 06:12 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Lewise Busch	We must improve conditions for our incarcerated people and our state employees working at sites of incarceration. The COVID-19 virus threatens all of us if any of us are poorly protected. We are all in this together. Please reduce incarceration as much as possible and clean up the jails and prisons and provide for better healthcare and cleanliness practices. Thank you.
04/05/2020 07:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Joy Blevins	As a resident of Chapel Hill, NC and a registered voter, I am writing the Economic Support Working Group members on an individual basis to ask for your support to expand NC's unemployment insurance program to meet national standards and to ensure the economic welfare for those residents in NC who have lost their jobs due to the unprecedented

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			COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that this pandemic will go on longer than all of us would like, so it is important that the unemployed can support themselves and families during this challenging time by providing food, housing and the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Hunger and housing are non-partisan issues. I am not seriously economically impacted by the pandemic, but I am concerned about all those who cannot afford to support their families, which, in turn, will have an impact on their health and well-being. If it means raising taxes, so be it. I think our state should be judged by how our legislators make policies that help the least fortunate in our state. Thank you for your support in recommending unemployment policies that are fair and just. There but for the grace of God, go I. I could be struggling to provide for my family or myself.
04/05/2020 07:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Joy Blevins	As a resident of Chapel Hill, NC and a registered voter, I am writing the Economic Support Working Group members on an individual basis to ask for your support to expand NC's unemployment insurance program to meet national standards and to ensure the economic welfare for those residents in NC who have lost their jobs due to the unprecedented COVID-19 pandemic. It is likely that this pandemic will go on longer than all of us would like, so it is important that the unemployed can support themselves and families during this challenging time by providing food, housing and the basic necessities that many of us take for granted. Hunger and housing are non-partisan issues. I am not seriously economically impacted by the pandemic, but I am concerned about all those who cannot afford to support their families, which, in turn, will have an impact on their health and well-being. If it means raising taxes, so be it. I think our state should be judged by how our legislators make policies that help the least fortunate in our state. Thank you for your support in recommending unemployment policies that are fair and just. There but for the grace of God, go I. I could be struggling to provide for my family or myself.
04/05/2020 08:15 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Kevin Smith	Shifting to voting by mail is the only responsible way to conduct the upcoming election and the longer you put it off, the harder it will be to implement.
04/05/2020 08:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Susie Ray	If we are still in the phases of the pandemic that require us to take all precautions that we have now, I strongly suggest that we be able to vote by mail or on-line. It seems to me that on-line for those of us who have the capability could be done in the way that the census has been done, which was very easy. Perhaps you can decide on a number of ways to vote to give us alternatives. The time to make a plan is now, not later in the year. Thank you.
04/05/2020 08:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dwight Rogers	I am writing in support of the NC Board of Elections recommendations for addressing the many potential problems related to voting that have arisen as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Given the danger of contracting COVID-19 through social proximity during on-sited voting, I believe it is particularly imperative that a safe, "user friendly" vote by mail system be developed for the 2020 election.
04/05/2020 08:25 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Claudia Hidalgorojas, LMT#11006	Though many small businesses have consequently been effected by Covid19, Gov. Cooper specifically called on Massage PRACTICES to close down. This left so many of us without income options. Many of us file 1099s or have multi-contractor practices so we don't qualify for unemployment or CARES Act. What do we do? You shut us down and then then gave us zero options except to expose ourselves anyway by getting temporary work. Most of us do not have the income to carry us through this event. You shut us down specifically! What do we do now?
04/05/2020 08:32 PM	Health Care Working	Dwight Rogers	Because of the large number of uninsured North Carolinians, I believe that expanding

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	Group		Medicaid is the most efficient and timely way to ensure that our North Carolina families, our healthcare system, and the North Carolina economy can weather this dangerous COVID-19 storm.
04/05/2020 08:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Tucker Charns	We need to release inmates with dates of release within the next 90 days. We need to stop arresting folks for technical only probation violations. We need to release pre-trial defendants for all misdemeanors and low level felony cases.
04/05/2020 08:39 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dwight Rogers	In order to provide for economic well being of many of our citizens and to make sure our economy rebounds quickly from the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that the State of North Carolina expand our unemployment insurance program.
04/05/2020 08:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dwight Rogers	Given that our inmate population is particularly susceptible to contracting the COVID-19 virus, I strongly suggest we should follow the suggestions of Chantal Stevens, Interim Executive Director, NC ACLU : "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." -
04/05/2020 09:06 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Vote by mail Barbara Rich	We already have absentee ballots. Make it available to all.
04/05/2020 09:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Medicaid Barbara Rich	Especially now. Take care of us. It's your job!
04/05/2020 09:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Matthew Van Jura	Greetings, I am writing to voice support for a COMPREHENSIVE VOTE-BY-MAIL SYSTEM as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency planning. Given the fluid nature of this pandemic, there is no guarantee that mass public gatherings will be safe by November. I have seen estimates that we may need to social distance for 18 months. I am a young, healthy person - and I do not want to go out in public right now. I want no part of this virus. I can't imagine being a person with a compromised immune system needing to go to the store, post office, or polling location. Therefore, I believe that North Carolina should take steps to make vote-by-mail fully accessible to all citizens of the state - ensuring free and fair participation in the upcoming 2020 elections. You should not have to risk your life in order to cast your vote. Thank you.
04/05/2020 09:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Alissa Van Atta	Mail in voting is a necessity- other states do it just fine, there is a record of it and this year it will literally save lives

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
04/05/2020 09:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Alissa Van Atta	This is a must right now- EVERYONE'S health impacts each other's. This is no time to play games, nor should it ever with matters of life and death. Health is a human right.
04/05/2020 09:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Alissa Van Atta	We need to balance things out- for far too long there has been an imbalance of power that puts the money in the pockets of those who are secure. We need to support the ones who have not been given a living wage that hasn't kept up with inflation.
04/05/2020 09:25 PM	Education Working Group	Alissa Van Atta	This is just cruel, they are helpless to contract this in that close space. If they are old, non violent, this is just the right thing to do.
04/05/2020 09:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Matthew Cohen	<p>To members of the Health Care Working Group of the COVI-19 special committee: Thank you for everything you are doing to serve North Carolina during this uncertain time. As a volunteer with the American Heart Association, I am sending recommendations for your committee to consider as you work to strengthen our response to this virus. Individuals with cardiovascular disease are at higher risk of adverse health outcomes from COVID-19.</p> <p>Please 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>
04/05/2020 10:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Louise Thoma	I am writing to voice support for a COMPREHENSIVE VOTE-BY-MAIL SYSTEM as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency planning. Given the fluid nature of this pandemic, there is no guarantee that mass public gatherings will be safe by November. Therefore, I believe that North Carolina should take steps to make vote-by-mail fully accessible to all citizens of the state - ensuring free and fair participation in the upcoming 2020 elections. Thank you.
04/06/2020 04:51 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Mary White	This is the best time to do the best good for the most citizens of North Carolina by enacting the Medicaid Expansion legislation for the protection of all the citizens of our great state. Expanded health care not only provides for the health and safety of our own citizens, but it also prevents the funding to be utilized by other states in our stead. Every life in North Carolina is precious and must be protected and nurtured. This is the very least you can do for the fellow citizens of this state. It is mandatory. It is required; in order for every citizen to reap the same benefits as the affluent citizens of this state. Health care rights for all in North Carolina is the most just objective of every member of the North Carolina state legislature. Move forward with equanimity. Fight for universal health care all across the country next. Surely this Corona Virus has taught each of us to become more humane and protect the lives of every individual in this state and country.
04/06/2020 06:42 AM	Health Care Working	Dr Charles Coble	It seems absolutely in-humane and extraordinary cruel to the poor in our state not to

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	Group		expand Medicaid, especially in this time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Doing so will save lives, cost the state very little and, in fact, be an economic driver to our state which is being ravaged by the economic fall-out of this pandemic. I strongly urge the House Select Committee on COVID-19 to make this recommendation.
04/06/2020 06:51 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Charles Coble	As devastating as the COVID-19 pandemic has been to the health and well-being of my fellow North Carolinians, we cannot imperil the foundations of our democracy by disrupting our elections in the Fall. I urge the House Select Committee to support a mail-by ballot option for all eligible voters. Other states do this securely and routinely and we already offer this absentee vote-by-mail option to voters who know that cannot be 'in-place' on voting day..
04/06/2020 07:01 AM	Economic Support Working Group	DR Charles Coble	North Carolina should never have approved such restrictive unemployment insurance as we now have in place. It punishes the already punished person, who through no fault of their own, become unemployed. Those who supported the minimal unemployment insurance we now have in NC, seem to assume that people just want a free ride - they seem disbelieving that the self-worth of humans is closely tied to their work and creative contributions. I strongly urge the House Select Committee to support extending unemployment benefits to 26 weeks, which is the national norm. Thousands upon thousands of my fellow citizens in NC are out of work, due to absolutely no fault of their own. Let's help them and do so fast! Their bills have not stopped coming due...and the state economy will be improved by the circulation of these funds, so that we all benefit!
04/06/2020 07:06 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Charles Coble	Jails and prisons are dangerous places in the best of times, but the COVID-19 pandemic has made them especially lethal - and not just to the inmates, but to all of the guards and other employees of detention centers. We should, with proper monitoring provisions in place, release all incarcerated for non-violent crimes and misdemeanors - and do so now. The impacts of viral contraction places us all at risk!
04/06/2020 07:23 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Paula Rochna	I urge you to consider establishing a comprehensive vote by mail system for the upcoming election in November 2020. Please, please, please.
04/06/2020 07:26 AM	Health Care Working Group	Paula Rochna	I urge you to expand Medicaid in NC to ensure that everybody gets the medical services they need.
04/06/2020 07:28 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Paula Rochna	Please expand the unemployment services to protect all of us who have no way to earn a living at this time.
04/06/2020 07:32 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Paula Rochna	Please follow experts advice to stem the spread of Covid19 by protecting the incarcerated and the workers who take care of them.
04/06/2020 07:48 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rhys Carpenter	How can we have large scale voting with it being mail-in. To require walk in voting puts people at unnecessary risk.

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04/06/2020 07:50 AM	Health Care Working Group	Rhys Carpenter	To not provide coverage to the least able is nothing but a crime against humanity.
04/06/2020 07:52 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Rhys Carpenter	Since the Government has required that many people stop people, it has responsibility to insure their economic survival.
04/06/2020 08:18 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Mary Beck	Please implement an effective vote by mail program for the elections coming up. I am older and concerned about safety of voters. This option should be available to all North Carolinians! Thank you for your consideration. Please act positively on this request.
04/06/2020 08:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Elizabeth Martin	We need to prepare for and encourage large scale vote by mail for the November 3 election. There needs to be open discussion of the many ideas that have been put forward including changing the witness requirements, changing who can assist a voter obtain & return a ballot, expanding the methods for ballot return, creating effective tracking for absentee requests and returned ballots, etc. The simplest change to enact is providing postage paid submission of absentee ballot requests and absentee ballots. Our November election must proceed, and our citizenry must be allowed to vote in a safe manner.
04/06/2020 08:35 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Kate Douglas Torrey	We MUST INSURE THE PROTECTION AND SECURITY, as well as maximum participation in the Nov 2020 election and that requires a shift to full-on MAIL IN VOTING. When combined with the new option for online registration (BOE plus DMV) the state will protect the health of its citizens and the integrity of our elections. These two responsibilities are the cornerstone of our democracy. This is urgent.
04/06/2020 08:40 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Kate Douglas Torrey	We MUST move now to expand Medicaid—to Protect the health and well being of the entire state, to provide for the economic stability of hospitals and avoid overwhelming expenses of uncompensated care, and to provide for a healthy workforce who have access to care both critical care and preventive care. This expansion must include families, single adults, children, those who are disabled. Access to high quality affordable health care is a basic human right which also strengthens the economic well being of the state.
04/06/2020 08:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Lolette Guthrie	Financial help for coop business where there are multiple owners is badly needed. I am 1 of 21 artists who own the Hillsborough Gallery of Arts. All 21 have lost our jobs and the gallery will need financial help to survive since we can't afford to pay for rent, utilities, etc. unless we can sell our art.
04/06/2020 08:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Lolette Guthrie	I strongly support the idea of mail in voting and urge you to consider and pass such a measure
04/06/2020 08:50 AM	Health Care Working Group	Marilyn Carter	Our NC hospitals, community health centers and families are about to be stressed in an unprecedented way by COVID-19, and our rural communities are exquisitely vulnerable. We need care facilities to stay open, and we need to protect the hundreds of thousands of uninsured and newly unemployed North Carolinians. An emergency bill to expand Medicaid, and bring our hard-earned taxpayer dollars back into the state at a time when they are most needed, is called for now more than ever. An emergency bill, if implemented, can also help ensure that when a vaccine becomes available, everyone can

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			be vaccinated, so that our broader population is protected and we can safely put North Carolina back to work.
04/06/2020 09:04 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MR Charles Burnham	It is inconceivable that any registered North Carolina voter should be forced to risk their life in order to cast a vote in any election. It is therefore the duty of the North Carolina General Assembly to modify election law to enable safe voting during the Sars-CoV-2 / Covid-19 pandemic. Under the present circumstances, there will be no alternative to enhancing mail-in ballot availability and access. Democracy ought not to be a partisan issue. Failure to act now will quickly become a failure to act.
04/06/2020 09:07 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ronald Geary	"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. Action should be taken immediately to help ensure their safety. Confinement should not be a death sentence.
04/06/2020 09:09 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ronald Geary	The best way to support the NC economy is to get direct cash resources to those who need it most, including the unemployed. Please expand unemployment worker coverage.
04/06/2020 09:11 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Cynthia Henshaw	The best and perhaps only way to ensure our constitutional right to vote is to implement vote by mail. Health experts believe another wave of COVID-19 could appear in Fall of 2020, so it is *crucial* that our right to vote is protected along with protecting all of us from spread of the virus.
04/06/2020 09:12 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ronald Geary	We need to do all we can to ensure that everyone votes. Mail in voting will be critical both now and in the future
04/06/2020 09:14 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Cynthia Henshaw	It is imperative to expand Medicaid in this pandemic to relieve hospitals and health care workers and provide for the SAFETY of our citizens who cannot afford health insurance. With so much that is not under our control, this is something that is.
04/06/2020 09:15 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Marilyn Carter	The ability of North Carolinians to meet their basic needs is under extreme challenge as we reach historic levels of unemployment as a direct impact of the COVID-19 crisis. To address this, we need to expand the state's unemployment insurance program and improve how it is offered and communicated to avoid confusion amongst those applying for it. Expanding UI will help ensure that unemployment itself does not further exacerbate the public health crisis. When an unemployed citizen cannot afford their care, they are less likely to seek it. This can impact the spread of the disease amongst family and community members.
04/06/2020 09:17 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Cynthia Henshaw	We must do all we can to expand unemployment insurance to protect our economy and our citizens from the deep recession that is inevitable from shutting down for COVID-19. This is the time to head off what we can - insuring those that lost their jobs and can't find employment will keep our economy running as they will be putting that money back into the economy and help stave off the worst depression that will otherwise occur. This is a no brainer!
04/06/2020 09:18 AM	Health Care Working	MR Charles Burnham	Medicaid expansion is not only about funding healthcare for North Carolina's hard-working

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	Group		poor. It is about funding hospitals which we all depend upon. Our North Carolina hospitals, particularly but not exclusively our rural hospitals will not survive the Covid-19 pandemic unless they can be compensated by Medicaid for that portion of their emergency health care costs. Regardless of individual political persuasion, every NC resident will suffer if we fail to expand Medicaid expeditiously. This is no longer a political game. It is a matter life and death on a scale heretofore unimagined. It is the duty of every legislator to support Medicaid expansion in this hour of dire need.
04/06/2020 09:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Cynthia Henshaw	We must require prisons to adhere to all of the guidelines for preventing the spread of the virus. We must protect our prisoners who are still citizens and should not be subject to illness or death that can be prevented. And it goes without saying that prisons' staff and guards should be protected and only adhering to the guidelines can do that at this time.
04/06/2020 09:26 AM	Education Working Group	Beverly Thomas	I support encouraging mail in ballots by providing prepaid postage.; eliminating the witness requirement; and enhanced checking of all mail in ballots. I am a concerned citizen and poll worker.
04/06/2020 09:27 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Ellen Cohen	Please consider mail in voting for the November election. We may not be through the current health crisis or there may be a resurgence. People need a safe way to exercise their right to vote.
04/06/2020 09:28 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Gerald Meyer	Medicaid Expansion needs to happen now. This will help all hospitals and medical providers respond to the Covid-19 crisis without any additional cost to the State if implemented properly. Our citizens without health insurance are likely to be greatly effected by the virus.
04/06/2020 09:29 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MR Charles Burnham	Our jails and prisons are now factories, efficiently producing and distributing Covid-19. Whatever our thoughts and beliefs about crime and punishment may be, we owe it to the lawful residents of North Carolina to reduce the risk of disease transmission by eliminating incarceration of non-violent offenders and providing for the safe housing and care of those we must continue to incarcerate. There is no humane or sane alternative.
04/06/2020 09:32 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Gerald Meyer	Please recommend expanding Unemployment Compensation to additional weeks so that no worker in this crisis has to worry about losing benefits during this crisis. Uncertainty about income is a very real problem for younger workers who have not had time to develop a savings account or back up for a time of unemployment. Please also expand the eligibility for Unemployment Compensation to those who work as independent contractors/gig workers and have multiple jobs.
04/06/2020 09:32 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Ellen Cohen	Please support the expansion of Medicaid. We cannot let our overburdened healthcare system fail especially in rural communities. We need to make sure that uninsured people with the virus don't avoid going for treatment because of their fear of costs.
04/06/2020 09:35 AM	Economic Support Working Group	MR Charles Burnham	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. I suggest that we 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

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			immediately available; and, ensure that workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/06/2020 09:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Gerald Meyer	Please do everything possible to protect those who are incarcerated in state and local prisons during this time of crisis. Consider orders which will permit the release of non violent offenders in advance of their release dates and other efforts to reduce the incarcerated populations during this crisis. Reducing bail requirements for people detained before trial or any sentencing for a conviction would also be very helpful.
04/06/2020 09:42 AM	Health Care Working Group	SJ Jacobs	It seems to me that Medicaid expansion would have served the NC population well in the current crisis. We know there are many people who have little or no medical insurance coverage. I urge you to consider legislation to correct this egregious lack of regard for our citizen's well being.
04/06/2020 09:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Ellen Cohen	Please consider expanding unemployment insurance eligibility and the length and amount of benefits. So many people are now unemployed that we are in danger of having a population that cannot afford to live without some help. It will take time for the economy to recover enough for people to get jobs again. We cannot afford to let so many people suffer from hunger and home insecurity.
04/06/2020 09:52 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Waive Vehicle Inspections John Lewis	Good day, With COVID-19 moving through our state there are many people who will not be able to get their vehicle to an inspection station. I know of one 74 year old man on the Nextdoor app who has comorbidities that make him so fearful that he can't even allow a neighbor to take his vehicle to get inspected. His research has led him to believe that only the GA can extend or waive the requirements for vehicle inspection. Please consider the many constituents in similar situations and pass a caring order to help them. Kind regards, John Lewis Weaverville
04/06/2020 10:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Cathy Cole	I am highly in favor of mail in voting and would want this process to be as simple as possible, while of course, being able to verify active voter status.
04/06/2020 10:07 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Cathy Cole	I remain in favor of Medicaid expansion in order to offer medical care to all members of our NC population. At this time, among others are those most penalized by the lack of expansion are workers who are at the arbitrary minimum wage standard, part time workers, those in the service industry. Medicaid expansion does not burden NC taxpayers or our budget as the money comes from our Federal tax dollars; data shows that Medicaid expansion in other states has lowered overall health care costs as people are able to do health care prevention and maintenance; jobs are created and more money and tax dollars are available in the state.
04/06/2020 10:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Ms Cathy Cole	"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.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		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." -
04/06/2020 10:09 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Cathy Cole	<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> <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>
04/06/2020 10:12 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Marsha Hartsell	Everyone should follow President Trump's example and vote by mail. He, as do most of the country, believes in-person voting is a threat to public health. All elections should be a vote by mail. These votes can be accurately tracked just like any package can be tracked and checked for fraud and delivery. Make voting secure. Vote by mail.
04/06/2020 10:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lucy Britt	I am writing in support of a strong vote-by-mail election system for the November general election. Even if social distancing recommendations are lifted by the fall, there will be many people who will need to stay at home until a vaccine is available in 2021.
04/06/2020 10:27 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Lucy Britt	I am writing to urge you to work with the governor to release as many state-incarcerated people as possible. This is an urgent measure that must be taken for the health of both the incarcerated population and the North Carolina population as a whole.
04/06/2020 10:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Clark Troy	<p>Dear State Operations Team,</p> <p>Thank you for your hard work during this period of crisis. Everyone is trying to adjust to the best of our ability to insure that society works as well as it can, and that includes the election process.</p> <p>Voting is a fundamental right, and we need to do everything within our power to make sure that everyone is able to vote safely. In 2020, it is likely that will mean broadening the means by which votes can be cast, including digital or telephonic voting. Everyone should be able to cast absentee ballots if they so choose, and we all may need to vote by mail.</p> <p>If voting in person proceeds, the sanitation and risk profile of voting sites must be of paramount concern. We can't be voting in retirement facilities, as has been the case in the past.</p> <p>People need to be able to register to vote, which means that scaling up online DMV</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>registration is also very important.</p> <p>Best,</p> <p>Clark Troy</p>
04/06/2020 10:29 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Lucy Britt	<p>I am writing you to urge you to take the following measures to expand access to unemployment insurance in North Carolina:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> -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.
04/06/2020 11:02 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr David Tillery	<p>I believe that we should move to mail-in ballots. It is done successfully in other states and with the outcome of the pandemic uncertain, we should make sure that there are no impediments to voting. I would support donating funds on my state taxes to pay for the cost of mail-in ballots.</p>
04/06/2020 11:04 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr David Tillery	<p>It is time that North Carolina accept Medicaid Expansion. With the cost of this pandemic looming, we need the extra assistance that is offered by the Federal Government.</p>
04/06/2020 11:06 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr David Tillery	<p>We desperately need to support Unemployment Insurance expansion! I have so many friends who are out of work with the pandemic. These are unprecedented times, we need to help those who are most in need.</p>
04/06/2020 11:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr David Tillery	<p>Government officials must 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.</p>
04/06/2020 11:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patrick McDonough	<p>Dear State Officials, thank you for providing this electronic comment opportunity. I commend you for doing so as it allows me to participate in government decisions without risk to my family. We have three people in our household who either have asthma or have had a prior partial lung collapse- upper respiratory infections like COVID19 present serious risks for us. That's why I'm asking you to make sure that we do not have to put ourselves at risk to vote. Even if we pass the peak of transmission and infection between now and the end of May, we will likely need months of additional social distancing to prevent renewed flare-ups while we wait for a vaccine in 2021. With this in mind, we need the ability for everyone to vote by mail, and for there to be online electronic voter registration, while taking appropriate security measures. Oregon has successfully held dozens of elections with voting by mail as the primary option since 2000, including presidential elections. Furthermore, this model has saved the state money! Please take the steps to implement electronic voter registration and universal voting by mail access for all North Carolinians. This will protect our health, and our democracy. Thank you.</p>
04/06/2020 11:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Andrew Havens	<p>The General Assembly should prepare for the 2020 General Election through the development of a more robust vote-by-mail system. Current models indicate that North Carolina will likely need to take precautionary measures to contain the spread of COVID-19</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Public Safety) Working Group		<p>into early 2021. North Carolinians should not be asked to risk their health or mental well-being to exercise their right to vote. A comprehensive vote-by-mail system would critically mitigate that risk.</p> <p>The General Assembly should first consider policy to provide prepaid postage for mailed ballot requests and mail-in ballot returns.</p> <p>The General Assembly should also consider policy to simplify the mail-in ballot request process by allowing voters to request mail-in ballots by email, fax, online form, or over the phone and permit near relatives and legal guardians to request mail-in ballots at polling locations during One-Stop Early Voting and on Election Day.</p> <p>Our vote-by-mail system should also simplify the process of simultaneously registering to vote and requesting a mail-in ballot. The General Assembly should consider policy to establish a one-step process to register to vote and request a mail-in ballot and also allow voters to register by mail up to the mail-in ballot request deadline.</p> <p>Moreover, a more robust vote-by-mail system should ease the process of completing and returning a mail-in ballot. The General Assembly should consider policy to allow voters to certify their ballot by providing the signature of just one witness. The General Assembly should also consider policy to allow voters and those assisting voters to return mail-in ballots at One-Stop Early Voting sites and Election Day polling places.</p> <p>Vote-by-mail systems should be predicated on the basic idea of counting every mail-in ballot returned by Election Day. It should ensure that mail-in ballots are tracked throughout the process via a publicly accessible tracking system. Moreover, voters should be notified through set protocol if their ballot request or mail-in ballot is determined to be invalid.</p>
04/06/2020 11:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joy Blevins	<p>I a registered voter in NC (live in Chapel Hill), I am writing your working group as a private citizen and a retired public health professional to ask that your working group take immediate action to protect incarcerated populations and support staff in NC during this COVID-19 virus crisis. There are criminal justice groups and public health experts that have made specific recommendations as to how best to accomplish reducing the impact of the virus on this uniquely vulnerable population, so I will not will not delineate these recommendations in this email. I have never had a family or friend incarcerated, including now. I am simply concerned as a fellow human being about the health and welfare of this population. If NC legislators do nothing to address this crucial issue, then, in effect, this could be a "death sentence" for many individuals who are incarcerated for minor offenses. Even if such actions increase taxes (on a fair basis across all taxpayer groups!), then this is the humane thing to do. Thank you for your support in protecting incarcerated populations and support staff, the latter group could spread the virus to their families and the community..</p>
04/06/2020 11:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Joy Blevins	<p>I a registered voter in NC (live in Chapel Hill), I am writing your working group as a private citizen and a retired public health professional to ask that your working group take immediate action to protect incarcerated populations and support staff in NC during this COVID-19 virus crisis. There are criminal justice groups and public health experts that have made specific recommendations as to how best to accomplish reducing the impact of the virus on this uniquely vulnerable population, so I will not will not delineate these recommendations in this email. I have never had a family or friend incarcerated, including now. I am simply concerned as a fellow human being about the health and welfare of this population. If NC legislators do nothing to address this crucial issue, then, in effect, this could be a "death sentence" for many individuals who are incarcerated for minor offenses.</p>

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			Even if such actions increase taxes (on a fair basis across all taxpayer groups!), then this is the humane thing to do. Thank you for your support in protecting incarcerated populations and support staff, the latter group could spread the virus to their families and the community.
04/06/2020 11:46 AM	Health Care Working Group	Michaem Israel	Is there any way that we can see the statistical data for people infected with COVID-19 and HIV-1 as a part of how the cases are broken down by community? Thanks, Michael
04/06/2020 11:59 AM	Health Care Working Group	Barbara Perkins	I'm interested in getting a public report by day of the number of tests performed each day coupled with the new number of cases confirmed coupled with the new hospitalizations. That would be a more honest statistic and would give the public more relevant information. Also, please ask the hospitals the number of discharges each day and the length of stay in the hospital of those who passed away. In addition, we would like to know if those who succumb have been treated with any of the new protocols and the nature of their underlying conditions.
04/06/2020 12:05 PM	Health Care Working Group	Andrew Havens	The COVID-19 pandemic further accentuates the need for the General Assembly to readdress Medicaid expansion. Prior to the COVID-19 public health crisis, independent research indicated that Medicaid expansion could insure as many as 600,000 North Carolinians, generate billions in economic activity, and create tens of thousands of new jobs (https://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/11568/expanding-medicaid-in-north-carolina---2019.pdf). Now, as the COVID-19 pandemic worsens, we see thousands of North Carolinians lose their jobs and lose access to their employer-sponsored health insurance. Recent projections further suggests that the COVID-19 pandemic could devastate struggling rural hospitals around the state. Medicaid expansion could leverage existing federal resources to care for struggling North Carolinians, promote economic activity, and aid financially venerable rural hospitals.
04/06/2020 12:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	MS Beth Gerall	I don't need to tell you that we are living in unusual times. 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 most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond. Rural counties will benefit the most from Medicaid expansion as they have the greatest number of uninsured people. Save the rural healthcare system, help the uninsured get the medical care they need, and make a positive impact on reducing the number of Covid-19 cases in this state.
04/06/2020 12:25 PM	Economic Support Working Group	MS Beth Gerall	At this time of extreme financial distress due to 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. I ask this committee to: Remove the cap of \$350 on the maximum weekly benefit; calculate based on the average weekly wages in the state. Use the average of the two highest quarters in the calculation of workers' benefits.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>Eliminate the waiting week so that funds are immediately available.</p> <p>Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p> <p>Thank you!</p>
04/06/2020 12:27 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Andrew Havens	<p>Incarcerated people are uniquely vulnerable to the spread of COVID-19. People in confinement have no control over their own movement and are often held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene.</p> <p>The General Assembly should consider the health and well-being of incarcerated people, corrections employees, and the general public by reducing imprisonment in North Carolina. Specifically, the General Assembly should consider policy to allow for the release of incarcerated people who are not a threat to public safety and further reduce the number of new people entering the system. The General Assembly should also consider policy to expressly protect the health of those currently incarcerated through the provision of supplementary resources and new precautionary protocols.</p>
04/06/2020 12:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Hear the People Diane Lemieux	<p>This is your chance to show the people that you care what they think, and that you want to hear them. Please follow the Board of Elections Recommendations, as follows. These recommendations include:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Allow a voter to request an absentee ballot form by fax and email 2. Establish an online portal for absentee requests and permit the use electronic signatures. 3. Allow an exception to G.S. § 163-230.2(e)(2) so that county boards of election could pre-fill voter information on an absentee request form, which could then be sent to the voter, signed, and returned. 4. Amend G.S. § 163-230. to allow voters without a driver's license, and who cannot access or remember their Social Security numbers to submit other evidence of the voter's name and address. The SBE letter of March 26 explains the importance of this suggested change for the elderly (and disabled) and provides examples of other permissible kinds of evidence. 5. Provide prepaid postage for the return of the ballot. <p>The only reason for not doing this is that you fear the results of an election where everyone can vote.</p> <p>Regards, Diane Lemieux Arapahoe</p>
04/06/2020 12:37 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MS Beth Gerall	<p>People in prisons, jails and detention centers are extremely vulnerable during this public health emergency. People in confinement have no control over their own movement and are in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19. This will affect inmates, all staff and the families to whom those staff return to each day.</p> <p>It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the corona virus in our communities by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, and all the staff working within those facilities.</p>
04/06/2020 12:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Andrew Havens	<p>The COVID-19 pandemic has wrought extreme financial distress upon people across North Carolina. It is imperative that we protect the ability of North Carolinians to meet their basic</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			needs through a more robust unemployment insurance program. The General Assembly should consider policy to expand access to the state unemployment insurance program, strengthen the benefits provided, extend the term of eligibility, and reduce the wait to receive critical benefits.
04/06/2020 12:40 PM	Health Care Working Group	Save NC residents Diane Lemieux	NC is one of only 14 states that have not enacted Medicaid Expansion. In addition to losing millions of dollars for NC, and forcing the closure of rural hospitals, it has left 300,000 residents without insurance. You need to get past whatever aversion you have to doing this and EXPAND MEDICAID NOW. We are losing lives right here because of your pride. It's time to help the people you are compelled to serve, or get out so we can elect someone who will.
04/06/2020 12:45 PM	Health Care Working Group	Save NC residents2 Diane Lemieux	Correction of my last post. NC is one of only 14 states that have not enacted Medicaid Expansion. In addition to losing billions of dollars for NC, 43,000 jobs and forcing the closure of rural hospitals, it has left 600,000 residents without insurance. You need to get past whatever aversion you have to doing this and EXPAND MEDICAID NOW. We are losing lives right here because of your pride. It's time to help the people you are compelled to serve, or get out so we can elect someone who will. Diane Lemieux
04/06/2020 12:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Bria Godley	I am a fourth-year medical student at UNC and well aware of the dangers of coronavirus, which are enhanced without appropriate social distancing measures. Therefore, I strongly encourage a comprehensive vote-by-mail system.
04/06/2020 12:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Bria Godley	As a UNC medical student and a native North Carolinian, I strongly support state expansion of Medicaid.
04/06/2020 12:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Michele Lynn	I am writing to urge you to support Medicaid expansion. 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.
04/06/2020 12:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Michele Lynn	I urge you to reduce and protect the state's prison population, both inmates and workers. 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.
04/06/2020 01:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Michele Lynn	I urge you to expand unemployment insurance. 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.
04/06/2020 01:08 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patty Courtright	Please devise a plan for mail-in voting statewide now. We absolutely have to be prepared for the uncertainties of the lingering effects of COVID-19 this fall so we can preserve our right to vote in November. The mail-in option should be fully inclusive so that everyone has the ability to cast their vote, no matter where they live or what age group they're in. This is our fundamental right. Thank you!

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/06/2020 01:09 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Holly Adkisson	Please take the needed steps to expand Medicaid to people who need healthcare coverage but cannot afford it. Expanding unemployment benefits for employees who are in financial peril due to the COVID-19 pandemic will also improve health outcomes for all North Carolinians in the long run.
04/06/2020 01:11 PM	Health Care Working Group	Patty Courtright	Our hospitals and community health centers across North Carolina are working to full capacity and beyond. They 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 most effective way to make sure that all NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and well into the future. Please support Medicaid expansion to give our state the much-needed help it deserves.
04/06/2020 01:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patty Courtright	People in prisons, jails and detention centers are vulnerable in this COVID-19 public health emergency because they are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene. It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in this vulnerable population because the virus spreads extremely easily, which affects the health of everyone in our state.
04/06/2020 01:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Patty Courtright	Please expand NC's unemployment insurance program to adequately protect people and their families during the COVID-19 crisis. The people who already are most vulnerable are at highest risk for this virus, and we need to do everything possible to protect them and, in turn, contain the spread of the disease.
04/06/2020 01:25 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Elizabeth Hitt	Please expand Medicaid NOW! Here we are in the midst of a very serious health crisis and we have now many people in North Carolina who do not have access to health care because they are uninsured? Are they going to go to a doctor or even a hospital when their symptoms are minimal? NO! They are going to wait until they are terribly sick because of the fear of a huge medical bill. North Carolina loses every day that you delay expanding Medicaid.
04/06/2020 01:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Isabel Geffner	To the House Select Committee on COVID-19: I urge you to work promptly to set into action all the necessary logistics and regulations that allow for mail-in voting for the upcoming November 2020 elections in North Carolina. The course of our democracy must be maintained -- and the upcoming election may indeed be the most important election of our lifetimes. EVERYONE's vote must be made easy and accessible. There are few imperatives more urgent. Submitted Respectfully.
04/06/2020 01:27 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Barbara Case	My husband and I are in the high risk group for COVID19. We need to stay home, but will be fined if we don't get our two vehicles inspected because we can't renew our registrations or pay our vehicle tax before 4/30. These expiration dates need to be extended. You can't punish people financially because they are doing what they have been asked to do and what they need to do to protect themselves and others. We have never been late with our inspections, registrations or vehicle taxes and have lived here since 1989. Please, extend these expiration dates or waive fines. Thanks so much!
04/06/2020 01:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Isabel Geffner	To the House Select Committee on COVID-19: The most vulnerable among us are those for whom the consequences of this unprecedented global pandemic are most severe. The gaps in access to healthcare have never been more stark. The health and well-being of our neighbors is at stake. I urge you to promptly enact Medicaid expansion to save the

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			precious lives of all North Carolinians. Thank you.
04/06/2020 01:41 PM	Health Care Working Group	Carolyn McAllaster	I am writing to urge the NC Legislatire to take the necessary steps to expand our Medicaid programs. Many people have lost jobs and are without health insurance during this time of extreme need. Please put politics aside and take this step. The need is urgent!
04/06/2020 01:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Carolyn McAllaster	I write to urge the NC Legislature to take the necessary steps to broaden the criteria to allow NC citizens to vote by mail. The risk associated with covid-19 will continue for months. We should not have to risk infection in order to exercise our right to vote.
04/06/2020 01:58 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	EDITH SALMONY	Elections are the foundation of our Democracy and our elected officials are given the duty to "...promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty,...". Therefore, I strongly urge the Working Group to develop a vote-by-mail contingency plan for North Carolina's 2020 general election.
04/06/2020 02:08 PM	Health Care Working Group	Lynette Hartsell	Expand Medicaid for all to save middle-class taxpayers a ton of money. Why should the middle-class the bear the responsibility for health care for the uninsured.
04/06/2020 02:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lynette Hartsell	Protect those incarcerated. They are a vulnerable group and it is the responsibility of the government to exercise due diligence and take proper care of inmates.
04/06/2020 02:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lynette Hartsell	Expand unemployment insurance. It is the only humane action to take to protect the working class.
04/06/2020 02:14 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Hampton Hopkins	<p>Representatives Horn and Fraley,</p> <p>As the president of Carolinas College of Health Sciences, I am concerned that the work of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Education Working Group will consider only those institutions identified as part of the University of North Carolina system, the North Carolina Community College system, or members of the NC Association of Independent Colleges and Universities. Carolinas College is a subsidiary of Atrium Health, exists by virtue of the Hospital Authorities Act [North Carolina General Statute 131E-23(a)(31)], and enrolls students from 11 counties in the Greater Charlotte region and beyond.</p> <p>As resources and services for higher education institutions are identified, I am hopeful that Carolinas College will be among the institutions considered. We currently serve approximately 640 students annually enrolled in critical healthcare fields such as nursing, medical laboratory science, radiologic technology and other disciplines. We are a singular mission institution focused on educating, engaging and empowering professionals for the evolving healthcare environment – and now is more critical than ever for the institution to have the necessary resources to ensure our students can graduate on time and fill needed healthcare positions.</p>

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			<p>Like all colleges and universities in North Carolina, we are following the current guidance of offering virtual classes and remote work. Our 73 faculty and staff have transitioned to the online environment in record time to ensure the continued quality of our educational experience. With graduation rates exceeding 76%, more than 98% of our students pass their licensure/certification exams on the first attempt and more than 89% accept employment within a few months following graduation. It is important that we have the resources to continue to provide this level of quality expected of our healthcare partners, including Atrium Health.</p> <p>I appreciate your considering Carolinas College within the Education Working Group as you make decisions that impact higher education. I am available to provide more information or to address specific questions if needed. I can be reached at 704-614-2785 or via email at hampton.hopkins@carolinascollege.edu.</p> <p>Thanks for your time,</p> <p>Hampton Hopkins, EdD President</p>
04/06/2020 02:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Attorney Deborah Malizia	I am writing to express my strong support for the measures recommended by the State Board of Elections to help ensure that our voting rights are protected in this unprecedented time of the Coronavirus pandemic. These measures include making it easier for each and every North Carolina citizen of voting age to obtain and vote an absentee ballot, preparing for the likely shortages of poll workers, and creating and operationalizing an easy-to-use and quality online voter registration system. 'One man/ woman, one vote' is the basis of our democracy. Understanding that different times require different procedures for upholding this right is essential to good and patriotic governance. Thank you for your service to North Carolinians.
04/06/2020 02:40 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Isabel Geffner	To the House Select Committee on COVID-19: Our glorious state is beset by an onslaught of unemployment -- faced first and foremost by those among us who are most vulnerable -- already facing enormous challenges to basic human needs -- food, shelter, healthcare. The sad truth is that in the best of times, North Carolina has insufficient unemployment support for those who are out of work. Please ensure that we remedy this unfortunate situation -- IMMEDIATELY! -- both to amply respond to the dramatic and immediate economic needs of our fellow North Carolinians and to move our state forward among our peers in providing support for economic security. Thank you.
04/06/2020 02:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Maryann Debski	Would you please consider sending ventilators to New York? With assurances that we get them back if NC needs them. We need to help each other out.
04/06/2020 02:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Hannah Shealy	Expanding the vote-by-mail option for elections has my full support. I hope it has yours. This system works for our country's representatives abroad and for our kids voting from colleges in other states.
04/06/2020 02:48 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Maryann Debski	Would you please pass emergency legislation to suspend the interest on late payment of income taxes? Or suspend payment until July ? Or set the interest rat from April 1 to July

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			1 to zero percent? People could use that money while waiting for employment uninsurance and the Fed payment, which many might not see until September. Thanks.
04/06/2020 02:50 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Hannah Shealy	Protecting the un- and under-insured residents of our state protects us all. If that is not obvious to you at this point or you are not motivated to do the right thing by every being you have an opportunity to help, watch what happens in this and other countries as COVID-19 affects a disproportionate number of the poor and spreads beyond that demographic.
04/06/2020 02:53 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Jesse Kaufmann	Our state needs Medicaid expansion now. Rural hospitals have closed because of the ruling party's lack of foresight. People who could be helped early, cancers kept from spreading , maternity issues, uninsured kids & moms, so many people needed help before. Now people may have been laid off to CV-19. The statistics overwhelming show that it costs the state more money when they don't have Medicaid expansion. Help ALL North Carolinians. VOTE FOR MEDICAID EXPANSION.
04/06/2020 02:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Adrian Linden-High	<p>Hi,</p> <p>My comment relates to vehicle registration renewal deadlines during this health crisis.</p> <p>My registration renewal is due 04/30/2020. In light of the current health crisis and the stay-at-home order, I think it's an unacceptable risk to take my car in for inspection in the next couple of weeks (even if, as I am aware, inspection stations are taking measures to reduce the risk of infection). Has there been any discussion on your committee on whether to extend these deadlines or to waive the late fees?</p> <p>I already was in touch with the NC DMV. They informed me that they do not have the authority to do either of these things.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Adrian Linden-High</p>
04/06/2020 02:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Jesse Kaufmann	Stem the spread of coronavirus in our prisons. Guidelines are there for us to follow. Use them now. We cannot afford to expose ANY part of our population to this terrible infection.
04/06/2020 02:58 PM	Economic Support Working Group		<p>I support expanded unemployment benefits effective immediately. Suggested improvements that I agree with are "Ways to do this (per NC Jiustice 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." Families could be starving if NC doesn't act promptly.</p>