

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/06/2020 03:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Marilyn Carter	<p>Published reports indicate that in North Carolina, cases of COVID-19 are beginning to spread throughout the federal prison system. Public health officials have also gone on record, registering their concern with the risks posed by accelerating spread in facilities to vulnerable individuals and the community beyond.</p> <p>"In North Carolina, the first COVID-19 case at a federal prison was reported March 27 in Butner and involved a staff member. Less than a week later, 10 inmates tested positive for the virus at the same facility." - NC Policy Watch, PW special report, Part Two: COVID-19 pandemic poses dire threat to NC prisons and jails, April 3, 2020.</p> <p>Given these risks, it is imperative that legislation is passed to ensure emergency funding where needed to protect incarcerated individuals and the staff that support them. In particular the safety of vulnerable individuals, including pregnant women, minors and those with suppressed immune systems should be prioritized.</p>
04/06/2020 03:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mary Ann Pagano	<p>WE NEED MAIL IN VOTING!</p> <p>While no one can foresee the future with certainty, it may be impossible for many citizens to turn out to vote this fall at our regular polling stations. Mail-in Voting is working in a number of states, and we can't wait until it's too late in North Carolina. A comprehensive plan for this option is needed now to protect the November election.</p>
04/06/2020 03:12 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mary Ann Pagano	<p>We need Medicaid expansion to keep our state healthy and safe.</p> <p>It is clearer than ever that EXCLUDING people from health care coverage ENDANGERS ALL OF US. The uninsured in rural counties will benefit the most from this expansion.</p>
04/06/2020 03:14 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mary Ann Pagano	<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):</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 03:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mary Ann Pagano	<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>
04/06/2020 03:28 PM	Continuity of State	Kathleen Ketterman	I support mail-in voting for the 2020 general election in November.

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
04/06/2020 03:42 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Suzie Roth	I would like to request that the NC General Assembly consider the expansion of mail-in voting for the November 2020 election. With the uncertainty of the COVID-19 crisis, having a mail-in option would help all voters to vote safely. Thank you for your consideration.
04/06/2020 03:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. R. Woodrow Setzer	Given the ongoing COVID-19 crisis, I believe we need to have a comprehensive vote-by-mail system in place for the November elections, since we are likely to be practicing some sort of physical distancing in November to reduce virus spread.
04/06/2020 03:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Mary Parry	It is clear that North Carolina will need mail-in voting as an option in order to help voters abide by any necessary social distancing measure in 2020 (and beyond). I fully support our state taking steps to offer mail-in voting and I hope this committee will work to expand early voting days/hours if in-person voting is offered. Protecting our democracy is critical and helping everyone participate in a safe and organized way is essential. Thank you.
04/06/2020 03:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Mary Parry	In North Carolina, our hospitals and community health centers are overloaded and underfunded. 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 fastest and most effective way to make sure that NC families, our economy and our healthcare system can survive this crisis and beyond. Thank you for working quickly on this issue.
04/06/2020 03:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Mary Parry	Please work quickly to protect people in prisons, jails and detention centers from being unable to protect themselves during this COVID-19 pandemic. Thank you.
04/06/2020 04:02 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. R. Woodrow Setzer	Now, more than ever, we need to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. Not only will that benefit the vast numbers of North Carolinians who currently do not have health insurance, it will help support the rural hospitals who need to be compensated for the care they provide.
04/06/2020 04:02 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Mary Parry	North Carolinians are losing their jobs in surprisingly high numbers. With this unprecedented unemployment caused by the COVID-19 crisis, we must work quickly to protect the ability of our unemployed to meet basic needs by expanding the unemployment insurance program. We must move quickly to make sure the people of North Carolina are protected in this way during this pandemic. Thank you.
04/06/2020 04:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Anna Setzer	I support shifting to mail-in ballots for the 2020 general election. I think that this must be considered based on the current trajectory of COVID19. Shifting to this form of voting would ensure that elections are fair. Even if transmission of COVID19 dissipates by the fall, many people will be dealing with economic, emotional, and social problems caused by it. Thus, it might not be feasible for someone to take off time from work to go to the

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04/06/2020 04:08 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Jamie Cox	<p>polling place. Others might not have reliable transportation or may have had to sell their car. All in all, I encourage a shift to mail-in ballots for this coming election.</p> <p>Thanks for the opportunity to comment. As chair of my county Board of Elections (Orange) I'm very concerned that we do everything we can to ensure that our citizens can exercise the fundamental franchise of our democracy and cast their ballots in November, even if we are still operating under the social distancing protocol or are actively quarantined by a subsequent spike in the virus. These suggestions reflect my opinions and not those of the Orange County BOE.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. IMPROVE AND EXPAND VOTING BY MAIL. This is the most effective way to allow voters to cast a ballots without risking the health of themselves and others. <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. This can be done while also maintaining the security and integrity of the election process (perhaps even reducing the opportunity for fraud). b. Best option: eliminate the application process and automatically send every ACTIVE voter a ballot. Send every INACTIVE voter a card informing them of their right to request a ballot. c. If the application process is maintained, provide online portal that provides an application that auto-populates all voter information. Make it as user-friendly as possible. d. Eliminate witness/notary requirement and instead use signature comparison to verify voter identity. Many (if not most) people do not live with two other adults, and leaving the witness requirement as is would require people to violate social distancing guidelines and risk their health. All registered voters have signatures on files at their County BOE. These can be cross-checked to verify a voter's identity. In other states where this is used, software can verify up to 75% of voter signatures against signature on file at County BOE. Other 25% should be reviewed/approved by a bi-artisan panel. This would be arguably more secure than the current witness requirements. e. County boards will need funding to implement, mainly for postage (for mailing ballot to voter and for return ballot from voter). 2. If we must have in-person voting, EXPAND EARLY VOTING: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. Operate in-person voting in conjunction with expanded vote-by-mail options above. b. Expand the number of days in the early voting period to 30 to accommodate more people across a longer period of time (with adjusted daily hours back-ended to closer to election day). c. Fund additional One-Stop sites, keep them open on Election Day as voting centers d. This will also remedy all the other issues that arise on election day (i.e., out-of-precinct voting, issues with registration, etc.). 3. If we must have in-person voting, CONSOLIDATE PRECINCTS, OPERATE VOTING CENTERS on Election Day <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. To protect our staff and the public, minimize Election Day in-person voting and focus on mail and early voting. b. On Election Day, operate fewer polling sites, but in larger spaces. c. Allow voters to drop off absentee by mail ballots at voting centers o Election Day. 4. If we must have in-person voting, CLOSE SCHOOLS ON ELECTION DAY

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			<p>Social distancing will mean we need large spaces to ensure voters are six feet apart at all times. School gyms are the obvious choice, but using school facilities when schools are in operation does not effectively permit for social distancing.</p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to share these suggestions, and thank you for your service to the people of our state.</p>
04/06/2020 04:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Fixsen	We must have the option of mail-in ballots in November.
04/06/2020 04:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Karen Fixsen	We must expand in employment insurance in scope and amount if we hope to recover economically
04/06/2020 04:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Karen Fixsen	It has never been more clear that access to health care impacts ALL of us AND the economy. Expand Medicare. A no-brainer!
04/06/2020 04:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Paul Price	Given the need to elect our State and Federal officials and the ongoing threat of Covid-19, I support the development of a comprehensive system for voting by mail for the 2020 elections.
04/06/2020 04:31 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Paul Price	I support Medicaid expansion for in the State of North Carolina.
04/06/2020 04:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Melissa Dean	<p>Please make sure that our state provides for comprehensive mail -in voting. This will preserve the right to vote . We cannot rely on in person voting during these uncertain times.</p> <p>Sincerely, Melissa Dean Hillsborough, NC</p>
04/06/2020 04:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Chair Cedar Grove Precien Vivian Herndon-Latta	Voting my mail will be good in view of COVID-19.
04/06/2020 04:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Melissa Dean	The citizens of North Carolina need Medicaid Expansion in order to help our rural hospitals and the many people who rely on their services.
04/06/2020 04:41 PM	Health Care Working Group	Vivian Herndon-Latta	I support expanding medicaid
04/06/2020 04:42 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Paul Price	<p>I support the following changes to the NC 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. <p>I am willing to have my taxes raised to achieve this goals. Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.</p>

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04/06/2020 04:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Melissa Dean	It is essential that North Carolina protect people who are incarcerated in NC prisons , jails, and detention centers as well as the employees and medical staff of those institutions. I urge you to reduce the prison population by releasing those non- violent offenders who are being held due to inability to post bail or who are of advanced age or near release date. Sincerely, Melissa Dean Hillsborough, NC
04/06/2020 04:51 PM	Health Care Working Group	Carol Prokop	Please expand Medicaid now. It is the only reasonable response concerning healthcare coverage in the middle of a pandemic - to increase healthcare access. It is not only the compassionate thing to do, but it is the smart thing to do. EVERYONE with or without healthcare is at greater risk for contracting the virus if there are more people out there who may be infected by COVID-19, but do not have access to care or testing or any diagnostic screening. Thank you!
04/06/2020 04:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Susan Fowler	I support the development of a comprehensive plan for mail-in voting in November in case circumstances require it to protect our democratic right to vote.
04/06/2020 04:55 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Susan Fowler	I support Medicaid expansion. Proving decent health care for people of our state, especially those in rural areas, requires it.
04/06/2020 04:56 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Susan Fowler	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 04:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol Prokop	Please take the best measures proposed to protect incarcerated populations and individuals amidst this Coronavirus Outbreak. Also protect prison staff and healthcare workers. It will end up protecting us all.
04/06/2020 04:57 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Keith Luck	With millions of people out of work, either by layoffs or furlow, it is imperative that an expanded unemployment insurance program protect North Carolinians' ability to meet their basic needs. Several important steps: Eliminate the \$350 cap on maximum weekly benefits, use state average weekly wages to calculate benefits, elimiinat the waiting period and make sure that workers receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/06/2020 04:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Keith Luck	Medicaid expansion in NC is critical to the health and welfare of our citizens, especially in this time of COVID 19 madness. Please place a high priority on medicare expansion. What a fundamental investment in NC people!
04/06/2020 04:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol Prokop	Please support Mail-in voting amidst the COVID-19 pandemic. That means in November! Thank you!.
04/06/2020 04:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ms Susan Fowler	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. 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 officer
04/06/2020 05:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Melissa Dean	<p>We need to 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. Increase the number of weeks that benefits are available.</p> <p>Thank you Melissa Dean</p>
04/06/2020 05:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Carol Prokop	Support expansion of Unemployment Insurance!
04/06/2020 05:01 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keith Luck	During the COVID 19 outbreak, people in prisons, jails and detention centers are especially vulnerable because they have little control of their movement and living environment. Please ensure 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, medical staff and correctional officers.
04/06/2020 05:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol Prokop	Please do what you can to protect prison populations, prison staff, and healthcare workers during this pandemic. It protects all of us.
04/06/2020 05:04 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Eric Riley	<p>THE TIME IS NOW FOR YOU REP. TIM MOORE AND YOU SENATOR PHIL BERGER to call a session of the NC General Assembly to rescind Cooper's order and open up North Carolina for business on April 12, 2020. Once that is done – it is your duty to ELIMINATE the political discretion of Democrat towns and counties to promote the socialist agenda by using G.S. 166-A in BOGUS emergency situations.</p> <p>We small business are dying out here and we need your help more then ever. Please show us how you'll stand up for NC citizens – how you'll face odds and show your courage to do the right thing. If not you all – then who? There is no one else!</p> <p>Oh, and I'm ready to start worshipping again with my church family on Sunday's and Wednesday's.....</p>
04/06/2020 05:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Sara Peach	Just as you do not feel comfortable collecting in-person public comment due to current health conditions, many voters may not feel comfortable or safe going to polling places in November 2020. To protect our democracy, please develop and implement a comprehensive vote-by-mail system for our state.
04/06/2020 05:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ms Sharon Gigliotti	Dear Committee members , I respectfully ask that you take a look at the “ Essential Services “ businesses that are operating in Buncombe Co . As a resident of the county I'm

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>very concerned over the lack of enforcement or due diligence regarding what is deemed “essential “. I previously sent emails to all of our county Commissioners as well as the County Manager . I only got a brief few words from Ms Pinder saying the county will re-evaluate when the order is reinstated on April 9 and nothing from anyone on county commission. My concern is that arts and crafts stores are declaring themselves essential during this time . I’m not certain why colored pens and water paints can’t be ordered online . Is it essential that an employee works , putting their health at risk day in and day out with little to no protection? My son works for Michaels. This corporate giant has all employees at corporate positions working from home , but puts their low pay employees out on the front line in order to keep reaping profits . I sent Ms Pinder an article about a Dallas legislator who demanded their closure there , citing corporate greed and exploitation of their hourly workers for profits . I noted even the conservative SC Gov McMasters , who was one of the slowest governors to act on closures or stay at home orders , added craft stores to “ non - essential “ businesses that must close . My son and others that work in our Arden store feel endangered and exploited unnecessarily. I beg you to take a look at these businesses and demand their closure now ! I’ve just read a series of articles about illness and deaths increasing exponentially in grocery store and Big Box store employees . It’s only a matter of time . If my son or anyone in these stores gets ill or God forbid worse , I will make it my personal mission to make sure everyone who has not taken action to shut these non essential businesses down will face consequences. Please do the right thing , better now , however late , than not at all .</p> <p>Sincerely yours, Sharon Gigliotti</p>
04/06/2020 05:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Graciela Vidal	Mail-in voting is the only given the pandemic. In addition, the turnout will be much larger than with any other option.
04/06/2020 05:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jean Hamilton	Given the Covid-19 crisis we need to make sure that everyone can vote safely by instituting a mail in ballot system in North Carolina.
04/06/2020 05:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Graciela Vidal	This pandemic has caused many people to lose their jobs and insurance. Without Medicare expansion these people will not recieve the care needed.
04/06/2020 05:39 PM	Health Care Working Group	Jean Hamilton	North Carolina needs to expand Medicaid to insure the health of all residents especially those in rural areas who have do not have access to hospitals. The COVID-19 crisis demonstrates that lack of access to care as well as inadequate public health resources have an effect on everyone in society.
04/06/2020 05:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jean Hamilton	North Carolina must protect those residents who are in jail, prison, and detention centers from COVID-19. This is not only the morally right thing to do, it protects everyone from this virus.

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04/06/2020 05:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mellicent Blythe	I am writing to urge the Health Care Working Group to support expansion of Medicaid. Our state desperately needs to ensure that all North Carolinians can access treatment for COVID-19 and other communicable diseases likely to hit our state. Especially during this time of anxiety and stress, we also need to expand Medicaid to ensure that North Carolinians can access mental health treatment in the least restrictive and most cost-effective settings, rather than being treated in our ERs and criminal justice system.
04/06/2020 05:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Graciela Vidal	Given the crowded conditions in prisons, that population is at a heightened risk of infection from COVID-19. I believe that it is imperative to take measures that will protect them.
04/06/2020 05:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jean Hamilton	North Carolina needs to expand and provide easier access to its unemployment insurance program in order to make sure that people's basic needs are met. This will support the long run health of our economy as well as the supporting people in the short run.
04/06/2020 05:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MR Aidan Dunne	Please ensure that our democracy is not damaged by the current emergency and **ensure** that all NC citizens are able to vote by mail if necessary in the national election this November. It is very likely that the coronavirus will return in the fall. Do not make our citizens decide between their health and their democratic responsibility.
04/06/2020 05:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mellicent Blythe	I am writing to urge the State Operations Work Group to put all possible measures in place to ensure North Carolinians maintain access to voting. We need to make it easier to vote by mail, increase promotion of absentee vote-by-mail, and provide free return mail postage on absentee ballots. More than anything else our state must ensure that we maintain our constitutional right to vote and that we do not fall victim to voting restrictions based on fear mongering and xenophobia. Thank you.
04/06/2020 05:52 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Annette Smith	Can we expect hazard pay for all essential workers including direct support workers who work under Medicaid waivers?
04/06/2020 05:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Graciela Vidal	With the number of unemployed people skyrocketing in the past couple of months, the expansion of unemployment insurance is a must. The Federal is not going to do enough to help people in need. It's up to the State to respond.
04/06/2020 06:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Rachel Heller	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. The uninsured in rural counties will benefit the most from Medicaid expansion. What will happen to sick rural North Carolinians if their local hospitals shut down for lack of funds? Why is North Carolina missing out on federal funds that could be used to insure our residents, leaving North Carolinians with no insurance? This is inhumane as well as fiscally unsound policy for our state. Expand Medicaid now!!
04/06/2020 06:25 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Ms Rachel Heller	North Carolina needs prepare to offer Mail-In Voting for the November election, due to the threat of COVID-19 for the foreseeable future. It may be impossible for many citizens to turn out to vote this fall at our regular polling stations. Mail-in Voting is working in a number of states, and we can't wait until it's too late in North Carolina. A comprehensive

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	Group		plan for this option is needed now to protect the November election.
04/06/2020 06:33 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mike Gilliom	We learned thru the video done by Dr David Price, who is on the front lines at Weill Cornell in NYC, https://vimeo.com/399733860 , that masks help people protect themselves, by inhibiting touching our noses and mouths. I have heard this point nowhere else, but we wear a bandana or a mask when we go shopping, because of Dr Price's recommendation.
04/06/2020 06:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mike Gilliom	I will gladly help Democrats learn the value of voting by mail. The Republicans have long used this method, and are very much aware the threat that Democrats pose if we wake up to its power!
04/06/2020 06:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Jo Ann Amey	As we are currently in the throes of the death and devastation of the novel coronavirus, it is obvious that we need everyone to have access to healthcare to ensure that those who are ill can be treated and not further spread the virus. I implore to you to allow our federal tax dollars to come back to North Carolina to provide care to our poor. You must expand Medicaid.
04/06/2020 06:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mike Gilliom	As a volunteer doing income taxes for low and middle income North Carolinians, I know the limits of Obama Care in a state that has refused to expand Medicaid. It's time to do it. This pandemic demands it!
04/06/2020 06:38 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mike Gilliom	We are about to see the pandemic sicken and kill people locked up in our prisons. We must move right now get these people to safe places!
04/06/2020 06:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mike Gilliom	There are too many people who do gig work, who are not covered by the first congressional aid act, who need help, who need to get healthcare and income, so that they can stay at home and isolated, so that the rest of us can be safe.
04/06/2020 06:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jo Ann Amey	With so many North Carolinians hurting and unable to work due to the novel coronavirus, it is imperative that the General Assembly support them in any way possible, namely with paid sick leave for themselves and their family members and improved access to unemployment benefits. The unemployed need these benefits to begin as soon as their jobs end and to extend as long as necessary as the state slowly recovers from this unprecedented disaster.
04/06/2020 06:48 PM	Health Care Working Group	ROBERT CHERNIAK	I would urge the group to seriously expand Medicaid for all needy citizens of NC. People without health insurance in this State risk overwhelming emergency departments at our local hospitals, neglect their health until their condition becomes urgent, etc. Please equalize quality health care for all by enabling low income people to receive Medicaid.
04/06/2020 06:49 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Kathy Jooss	I support Medicaid expansion. Now more than ever, we need to expand health coverage to 500k more North Carolinians.
04/06/2020 06:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Kathy Jooss	I support and want to see North Carolina provide paid sick days, family leave and unemployment benefits to all. I support getting economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19 as soon as possible.
04/06/2020 06:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	ROBERT CHERNIAK	I am 85 and I have voted in every election since I was eligible to vote. Let us enable all NC residents to have the same privilege by supporting vote by mail and reduce the barriers to voting.

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
04/06/2020 06:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Kathy Jooss	I support making voting more accessible to all voters by expanding vote by mail, increasing public promotion of the absentee vote-by-mail option and ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots.
04/06/2020 06:58 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Cecelia Moore	please support the recommendations put forth by the State Board of Elections, so that the state can be prepared for the 2020 elections.
04/06/2020 07:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jo Ann Amey	Since we have no idea what the trajectory of the coronavirus is going to be, we have to ensure that the November election can go on seamlessly. Therefore, the General Assembly needs to institute mail-in ballots so that everyone will be able to cast his/her vote, regardless of the conditions at that time. Also there must not be added impediments such as witnesses added to that to make it more difficult. Keep in mind that other than the voter fraud case carried out by Republicans in the 9th District, there has been virtually no other instances of voter fraud.
04/06/2020 07:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Professor Jane Brown	We've been helping folks register to vote and get to the polls for the past 18 months. It is clear that mail-in balloting would be extremely helpful for many people who have trouble getting to the polls due to work, transportation, child care, etc. Now with COVID-19, many people will be afraid to come to the polling place and will lose their right to choose our elected officials. We need to ensure that everyone has the opportunity to vote in this important election.
04/06/2020 07:19 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Lamar Proctor	I support a UBI for all citizens as well as decoupling health insurance from employment. At a minimum, I support expanded unemployment benefits for North Carolinians put out of work by COVID-19.
04/06/2020 07:21 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Lamar Proctor	Please follow all best practices for our vulnerable populations in jails and prisons. They are sitting ducks and deserve to be treated fairly. Many are being held on non-violent and minor offenses. They deserve consideration as they are essentially wards of the state.
04/06/2020 07:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Sharon Brown	As an epidemiologist, I'm critically aware of the need to limit the possibility of the spread of infectious disease such as COVID-19. I highly recommend that every effort is made by our state legislature to enable the process of voting by mail for this year's national election. To not have this process for our high risk citizens to utilize will be seen as a significant case of discrimination for these individuals, as well as call this election into question.
04/06/2020 07:30 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Nancy Friedman	I support Medicaid expansion. I have always supported Medicaid expansion but now it is even more important. This virus should not have taken us by surprise. And there is every reason to suspect more health crisis will be in our future and pose a serious threat to our economy.

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04/06/2020 07:35 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Nancy Friedman	We should be supporting working families. Workers should have paid sick days, family leave and full unemployment benefits. This is particularly important to provide economic relief to those impacted by the Covid 19 pandemic. Providing relief now will be a boon to our economy when we are over this current crisis.
04/06/2020 07:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Nancy Friedman	Voting may be impacted by Covid19, even in November. We must act to insure every NC citizen can vote by making voting by mail more accessible, promoting absentee voting by mail, and making the process secure but more simplified, and by ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots.
04/06/2020 07:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MS. Mary Rigby	<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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Allow near relatives and legal guardians to request mail-in ballots at polling locations during One-Stop Early Voting and on Election Day.</p> <p>Allow persons other than near relatives and legal guardians to assist voters with requesting, completing, and returning ballots.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>Allow voters and those assisting voters to return mail-in ballots at One-Stop Early Voting sites and Election Day polling places (including curbside).</p> <p>Count every mail-in ballot submitted by Election Day.</p> <p>Establish a one-step process for registering to vote and requesting a mail-in ballot.</p> <p>Establish a robust and uniform system for notifying voters when the Board determines their ballot request or application is invalid.</p> <p>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>
04/06/2020 08:11 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Donell Kerns Donell Kerns	I strongly urge you to expand Medicaid coverage to the over 500,000 North Carolinians who's health is imperiled by lack of coverage. It is a moral imperative to protect ALL people equally and not allow economic injustice to cause unnecessary deaths.
04/06/2020 08:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Donell Kerns Donell Kerns	<p>To make democracy in NC more viable during this health crisis, I urge you to: Make voting by mail more accessible, increase public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option, ensure free return mail postage on absentee ballots.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Donell Kerns</p>
04/06/2020 08:21 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Donell Kerns	<p>Unemployment is skyrocketing in NC. Many people are without incomes. I urge you to protect NC families by providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Donell Kerns</p>

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04/06/2020 08:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Aimee Tattersall	Specifically for undocumented workers. Unless we as US citizens provide health care (which is related to fair wages, decent places to live, access to healthy food, regular check ups etc.) to all of us, documented or not, we will never get COVID-19 under control. We cannot provide health care to only some of us, especially now, without health care for all of us. Thank you for listening.
04/06/2020 09:07 PM	Health Care Working Group	Laurie Fox	As a physician assistant who has cared for underinsured people my whole career, I urge you to expand Medicaid now! It is time to protect all North Carolinians from the ravages of bankrupting medical bills. During this crisis, with expanded Medicaid coverage, over 500,000 people would be protected. Now is the time to save lives and families from utter devastation. Expand Medicaid now
04/06/2020 09:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Laurie Fox	In response to this extraordinary crisis, to assure fair elections for all eligible North Carolinians, I urge you to legalize Mail in Ballots for all. People are afraid of getting ill, and the state has justifiably ordered stay at home orders. We cannot predict the future need for stay at home orders in the fall of 2020 during another likely wave of the coronavirus epidemic. Now is the time to act, to prepare our state for Mail in Balloting, assuring North Carolinians our constitutional right to vote.
04/06/2020 09:28 PM	Health Care Working Group	John Wambaugh	Please expand Medicaid. Health care is a basic human right.
04/06/2020 10:30 PM	Education Working Group	Rev Donna Li Puma	Plan, prepare, get ahead of road blocks to having the maximum number of votes cast 2020 Election, mail in paper ballots.
04/06/2020 10:37 PM	Education Working Group	Rev Donna Li Puma	Why Why Why can't we provide health care for everyone? Caring for everyone must come before "how much does it cost?" Extend Medicaid.
04/06/2020 10:38 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Lisa Kaylie	It is important that we offer the citizens of N.C. the safe option of voting by mail in the Nov 2020 election. As a former citizen of the state of Oregon I can attest to the safety and the validity of mail in ballots. There is nothing more important than ensuring every citizen in NC the right to vote. Please allow all NZ citizens to mail in their ballots in the upcoming election. Thank you.
04/06/2020 10:44 PM	Education Working Group	Rev Donna Li Puma	Incarceration shouldn't dictate second class health care for the inmates or all staff.
04/06/2020 10:47 PM	Education Working Group	Rev Donna Li Puma	Without expanded benefits, how will unemployed households survive? Expand the benefits. We don't know how long people will be unemployed. Plan ahead.
04/06/2020 10:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Margaret Fite	We need mail-in voting plan for November! We need Medicaid expansion for our state! We need expansion of unemployment insurance in NC! We need to immediately take action in our prisons to stop the spread of Coronavirus!
04/07/2020 12:02 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Marya Ilgen-Lieth	To ensure the integrity of our elections during the pandemic, it is essential that the NC Legislature make statutory changes to expand the ability of voters to vote by mail. The following organizations have made recommendations that can be used as a guide: - NC Board of Elections (https://abc11.com/coronavirus-nc-cases-covid-19/6081002/) - Democracy NC (https://democracync.org/news/our-take-on-elections-response-to-

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			<p>covid-19/?emci=4f1c16d9-9973-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=33614215-2a74-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=1568969)</p> <p>- NC Democratic Party (https://www.ncdp.org/media/ncdp-outlines-priorities-to-ensure-voting-is-fair-free-secure-amid-covid-19-crisis/?emci=4f1c16d9-9973-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&emdi=33614215-2a74-ea11-a94c-00155d03b1e8&ceid=1568969)</p> <p>Furthermore, these changes would continue to solve voter access issues after the pandemic is over.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
04/07/2020 02:19 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Camellia Morton	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>People confined in prisons in North Carolina are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 deadly virus. It will also spread to surrounding communities as corrections staff become infected and bring it home with them. It is imperative that our state leaders take action now to reduce significantly the prison population so that social distancing and other mitigation practices can be implemented. Please release those inmates who can be categorized as low risk to public safety who are elderly, living with underlying health conditions, whose dates of release are set for 12 months or less, and inmates being held for small probation violations. People will unnecessarily die otherwise.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ms. Camellia Morton</p>
04/07/2020 02:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Camellia Morton	<p>Dear Sir or Madam,</p> <p>People confined in prisons in North Carolina are particularly vulnerable to the COVID-19 deadly virus. It will also spread to surrounding communities as corrections staff become infected and bring it home with them. It is imperative that our state leaders take action now to reduce significantly the prison population so that social distancing and other mitigation practices can be implemented. Please release those inmates who can be categorized as low risk to public safety who are elderly, living with underlying health conditions, whose dates of release are set for 12 months or less, or being held for small probation violations. People will unnecessarily die otherwise.</p> <p>Thank you,</p> <p>Ms. Camellia Morton</p>
04/07/2020 05:05 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Karen Mallam	You need to immediately expand Medicaid to the nearly half-million people who need this vital service in a time of pandemic.
04/07/2020 05:08 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Karen Mallam	You need to be sure that you provide for sick leave, full unemployment, and family care leave for all North Carolinians during this time of pandemic. You must also assure that direct economic support is provided to those most impacted by the coronavirus, especially those in poverty.
04/07/2020 05:11 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Karen Mallam	You need to promote accessible, vote by mail options, recently made available. Our elections are precious to us, and must be protected so that all of us can vote, particularly during natural disasters such as the covid virus.
04/07/2020 08:35 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Ms. Nancy LaPlaca	Please allow online voting.

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
04/07/2020 08:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Susan Davis	Our government structure begins with the ability of registered voters to express their choices at the polls. During this time of emergency, our ability to vote is more critical than ever. Please do all you can to make voting by mail accessible to the people of North Carolina. It works in other places, and we can do it here!
04/07/2020 08:46 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Anita Goetz	Dear Representatives: Please consider setting aside funding for infrastructure projects to boost local economies and address critical needs for better environmental protection and conservation of natural resources. In particular, please authorize funding for NC Division of Water Resources projects to address water quality, infrastructure, and property protection. Also please authorize funding for permanent protection and restoration of our waterways; to increase opportunities for recreation; and add lands to existing conservation lands for public use and enjoyment. Thank you..
04/07/2020 08:49 AM	Education Working Group	Anita Goetz	Dear Representatives: Please consider funding measures to provide classroom materials, free lunches, and to protect and compensate school teachers, staff, and administrators so that children can return to a supportive and thriving public school system. Our children deserve the best learning experiences possible in order to build a better future for our state and world. Thank you.
04/07/2020 09:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ALAN PRINGLE	Pleas ensure absentee/vote by mail is a PRIMARY method for voting in the upcoming November election. We cannot repeat what is happening in Wisconsin right now. No one should have to put their health and the health of others at risk to exercise their right to vote.
04/07/2020 09:17 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Julie Albert	PLEASE support Medicaid expansion, which would allow over 500,000 North Carolinians to get health coverage in these desperate times. ?
04/07/2020 09:18 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Julie Albert	PLEASE protect all North Carolina workers and communities: • provide paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all • provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19
04/07/2020 09:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Julie Albert	PLEASE make voting more accessible to all voters by: • making voting by mail more accessible • increasing public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option • ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots
04/07/2020 09:53 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Trudy THomson	I strongly support a comprehensive vote-by-mail system as part of our state's COVID-19 contingency-planning around November's general election.
04/07/2020 09:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Mr. Lawrence Kunz	It would be wise to assume that most (if not all) voting will be done by mail in 2020, including the November general election and any special or runoff elections. Today's

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>Wisconsin Primary, in which only 5 out of 180 polling stations in Milwaukee could open, proves that we should consider mail-in voting to be the new normal in the time of Covid-19.</p> <p>We already have a good system for absentee voting in N.C. It should be publicized well in advance, so that all votes receive clear, easy to understand instructions for obtaining a ballot and submitting it on time. There should be a "hot line," accessible both online and by phone, sufficiently staffed with knowledgeable people, to handle voters' questions.</p> <p>Thanks for considering these suggestions.</p> <p>Lawrence Kunz Raleigh, NC</p>
04/07/2020 10:24 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Debra Kaufman	As an Alamance County resident and active voter, I urge you to develop a comprehensive plan for a mail-in voting option to protect the November election.
04/07/2020 10:27 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Debra Kaufman	The coronavirus is shining a glaring light on our health care inadequacies. I urge you to immediately expand Medicaid to ensure that our most vulnerable citizens are protected, not only for the current crisis, but as an everyday option. The uninsured in rural counties are especially in dire need of Medicaid expansion.
04/07/2020 10:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Debra Kaufman	I urge you to follow the recommendations of 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 offices. Also anyone detained awaiting immigration status, as well as farm workers, who often live in cramped quarters without adequate resources for hygiene.
04/07/2020 10:34 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Debra Kaufman	<p>I urge you to expand the NC unemployment insurance program. Our benefits fall far below those of most other states. The NC Justice Center has several recommendations on how to achieve this. These changes are long overdue, and the current crisis shows in a harsh light how far our state has to go to help those most in need.</p> <p>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>
04/07/2020 10:48 AM	Health Care Working Group	Vickie Atkinson	During the time of this terrible pandemic, it is crucial to expand Medicaid. Many, many people have been laid off from their jobs. Some had health insurance through their jobs that they no longer have. Others did not have health insurance to begin with. EVERYONE needs health insurance - now more than ever. I urge you to expand Medicaid now.
04/07/2020 10:51 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Vickie Atkinson	It is crucial that we provide paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all and economic assistance to those most impacted by the COVID19 pandemic
04/07/2020 10:56 AM	Continuity of State	Vickie Atkinson	With all the many responsibilities you have now, one of the most important is protecting

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		our democracy and ensuring our right to vote. Please make voting by mail more accessible. Conduct an education and outreach campaign to inform citizens about the absentee vote-by-mail option and ensure participation by providing free return mail postage on absentee ballots
04/07/2020 11:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Tony Reeve	Could North Carolina organize times for citizens to stop and clap for/recognize first line responders to COVID 19? The United Kingdom has been doing this and it has been really inspiring.
04/07/2020 11:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Tony Reeve	Could North Carolina organize times for citizens to stop and clap for/recognize first line responders to COVID 19? The United Kingdom has been doing this and it has been really inspiring.
04/07/2020 11:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Secure mail in voting Carolyn I Leith	I'm hoping I can submit this comment I just got home from the hospital having had Covid. Something needs to be done to allow all people who want to vote to vote. But security needs to be considered. I think we should look at the Washington State model and see if it could work here. All citizens deserve the right to vote. And our state deserves to have a secure means of doing so. We do not want to see another absentee ballot scam going on like we had in the last election.
04/07/2020 11:18 AM	Health Care Working Group	Carolyn I Leith	<p>I hope you will allow this comment as I just got home from the hospital after being treated for COVID-19. I shudder to think what some of our citizens are going through—the ones who have not been able to have a secure way of getting medical treatment without bankrupting their families. Medicaid is needed more now than ever and I urge you to take action and do not delay!</p> <p>In the name of public health, it makes entirely good sense to have the state have a healthy citizenry. Medical care should be offered for those who cannot pay and those who can. We need to build a social safety net so that people do not need to choose between working so they can feed their families and seeking the medical treatment they need and the public health requires!</p>
04/07/2020 11:21 AM	Health Care Working Group	Herbert Amey	I want to tell the House Select Committee on COVID-19 (Health Care Working Group) that I support Medicaid expansion, which would allow over 500,000 North Carolinians to get health coverage. This would have been great for our citizens before the pandemic. and it will remain vital after our return to normal.
04/07/2020 11:26 AM	Health Care Working Group	Robin Leto	Please expand Medicaid. We need it to help decrease the spread of COVID-19, save lives, and save the state money in emergency room visits and hospitalizations.
04/07/2020 11:26 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Herbert Amey	<p>I want to tell the House Select Committee on COVID-19 (Economic Support working group) to protect all North Carolina workers and communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * provide paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all * provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19
04/07/2020 11:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Herbert Amey	<p>Common Cause NC asked me to tell the House Select Committee on COVID-19 (Continuity of State Operations working group) to make voting more accessible to all voters by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • making voting by mail more accessible • increasing public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		• ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots
04/07/2020 11:29 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Robin Leto	Please support the expansion of unemployment insurance and economic support for people out of work due to Covid-19 as well as requiring employers to provide sick pay for their ill workers. This will help prevent the spread of covid-19 and will keep our economy going because people will have money to spend.
04/07/2020 11:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Robin Leto	Please revise the requirements for voting by mail and absentee voting in NC. This will slow the spread of covid-19 which in turn will help the NC economy.
04/07/2020 11:34 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Unemployment insurance Carolyn I Leith	Families are suffering and the state needs to act now. As huge sectors of our economy have been told to shut up shop for a good cause, the state needs to do it's part and support these people who can no longer work. I think it would've been better if our federal government had elected to deliver funds to businesses who intern would've paid their workers, But since that didn't happen we need to make the unemployment insurance system get money to these people a SAP! As a citizen I would expect this would be done with care and caution to prevent fraud, but you can do it! Make it work! And don't keep these poor workers waiting!
04/07/2020 11:57 AM	Health Care Working Group	Christine Weason	<p>To: Rep. Dobson, Rep. Lambeth, Rep. Jones, Rep. White, Rep. Cunningham, and Rep. Carney – Chairs of Health Care Working Group, House Select Committee on COVID-19</p> <p>From: Christine Weason, North Carolina Government Relations Director, ACS CAN</p> <p>Date: April 7, 2020</p> <p>Re: American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network's COVID-19 Policy Recommendations</p> <p>The American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network ("ACS CAN") would like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation for the commitment you have shown to protecting North Carolinians through your leadership on the Health Care Working Group of the House Select Committee on COVID-19. ACS CAN is including a list of evidence-based policies to slow the spread of COVID-19 and protect access to quality, affordable health care for cancer patients, cancer survivors, and their families. Even though much of the world has been put on pause, cancer doesn't stop. Now more than ever, cancer patients, survivors and their loved are at risk and we urge you to take swift actions that can help contain the virus and improve access to coverage and care in North Carolina.</p> <p>Cancer is an unpredictable and life-threatening disease. Medical expenses for people with cancer are 4 times greater than people without cancer. Cancer patients are frightened, not only about COVID-19, but how they will manage their diagnosis and disease in this crisis. Cancer patients must have timely access to appropriate and affordable medical treatment and medication. Being immunocompromised, cancer patients are even more vulnerable during this pandemic. Lack of access to continued health care may result in disease progression, disability, and death.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>As you deliberate, ACS CAN strongly recommends you consider the following actions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close the coverage gap. Close the health insurance coverage gap by expanding eligibility for the state's Medicaid program. Expanding Medicaid eligibility would help slow the spread of the virus, by providing low-income North Carolinians who are uninsured – especially those who are newly unemployed and/or no longer able to afford their health insurance coverage access to comprehensive and affordable care, including COVID-19 testing and treatment services. In the midst of this pandemic, Medicaid coverage can provide countless state residents, reassurance that their family will not go bankrupt, should they need to seek medical care or need to go to the hospital. Further, Medicaid expansion can help support our hospitals and health systems by providing them much needed revenue to help them provide care for current and anticipated COVID-19 patients. • Close the chemotherapy coverage gap. Prioritize passage of North Carolina's Oral Chemotherapy Fairness legislation (HB 480). It is more important than ever to ensure that cancer patients can access chemotherapy in the safety of their homes. Cancer patients in some areas are having difficulty keeping their chemotherapy appointments because of the shelter at home order, transportation challenges, and shortages of personal protective equipment, as well as concerns about exposure to the virus. • Ensure access to essential medications and medical products. Suspend health plan utilization restrictions (refill limits, prior authorization, step therapy protocols) at this time. It is critically important that patients be able to access life-sustaining medications and products without putting themselves at risk with frequent trips to the pharmacy. Plans must allow patients to follow CDC recommendations to secure an appropriate amount of backup supplies of essential medications and medical products. • Protect patients from surprise medical bills. As we look to a future of economic uncertainty, protecting patients from medical debt is of critical importance. We urge you to prohibit surprise bills from out of network providers for laboratory testing as well as treatment for COVID-19. This financial protection should include all providers, settings, and insurance types to ensure that everyone who needs testing and treatment is able to receive timely and affordable care. Fear of surprise bills should not keep patients and consumers away from care during this critical time. <p>ACS CAN thanks you for your efforts to protect vulnerable patients, and we urge Members of the Health Care Working Group of the House Select Committee – COVID-19 to adopt our recommendations. If you have questions, or would like to discuss further, please contact me at 919-270-4428.</p> <p>Sincerely, Christine Weason North Carolina Government Relations Director, ACS CAN</p>
04/07/2020 12:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Cathy Buckley	<p>Please create a vote-by-mail option for the general election, as well as beyond. It is anticipated that the COVID-19 present crisis will continue as a potential threat, even after the initial big wave of cases subsides. Please do not make us choose between our health and well-being and our wish to exercise our right to vote.</p> <p>Thanks for all your efforts of good will on behalf of North Carolinians.</p> <p>---Cathy Buckley</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/07/2020 12:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Elizabeth Downing	We URGENTLY need to have vote by mail for the November 2020 elections.
04/07/2020 01:08 PM	Health Care Working Group	Finance Director Robin Shue	We are a Child Advocacy Center that has continued to provide services to emergency child abuse cases. Staff are working remotely, except for those cases. We are providing for emergency cases, which means we are losing approximately \$600 per week in income. We cancelled our two major fundraisers, which equates to about \$8,000 in revenue. Several events by other community agencies where we were to be present and provide information on our services were cancelled. Of the 22 elementary schools that were to receive our Stop Go Tell program, 15 schools had not even started the program, two are incomplete, and only five are completed. Parenting classes have also been suspended until further notice.
04/07/2020 03:00 PM	Health Care Working Group	Me. Dena Papazoglou	To the House Select Committee on COVID-19 (Health Care Working Group). I urge you to enact Medicaid expansion, which would allow over 500,000 North Carolinians to get health coverage. In the age of the long-standing results of the pandemic and economic disruptions, our citizens need Medicaid access more than ever.