

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/08/2020 04:32 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Geralyn McGuire	It is essential in a democracy to have elections carried per the law. This is an opportunity to have mail in ballots set up well in advance during this period of Covid-19 uncertainty.
04/08/2020 04:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	Chris Langley	What is being done to address the expense of COBRA and the continuation of coverage for those that lost their jobs as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic? The cost of COBRA for a family of four will rival most mortgage payments; and whereas most lenders have been agreeable to deferrals, insurance benefit providers have given no such consideration for those workers displaced by the pandemic. Before we give tax money to insurance companies to help cover additional losses, perhaps the cost of premiums should be offset in the near term for those displaced by the pandemic.
04/08/2020 05:56 PM	Education Working Group	Jane Barnett-Lawrence	We MUST expand internet service to students. I believe it should be a right or at least subsidized for students. I am in a more rural county where the suburban side all has internet access, more or less, but the rural side has unreliable internet or none at all. My students cannot always get rides back to school or to the other hotspots to sit in a parking lot and attend the Zoom classes. They deserve the same access to what 80 percent of my students have. Please help them.
04/08/2020 06:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Larry Reed	It is critical that our state of North Carolina have in place a vote by mail contingency plan for this November's elections. Given all the uncertainties of the length of time and continue severity of the COVID-19 pandemic, North Carolina must establish a detailed plan to allow all the voters of our state the option to vote by mail. We must learn from the recent disaster in Wisconsin when the state does not have a well executed plan to allow maximum voter participation by mail in an election. Larry Reed, 2407 Tryon Rd, Durham, NC 27705 (919) 452-3896
04/08/2020 06:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Gerardo Rivera	<p>Hello,</p> <p>I am writing you all to demand you all think clearly and logically about the Presidential election coming up in November. I am tired of these political games the Republicans/GOP engage in within this state as well as throughout other states with GOP governors/ legislatures. You all need to meet in person or virtually to pass an agenda/bill/funding for statewide mail-in voting. (It is better to meet online/virtually than in person to minimize the spread of the COVID-19 virus).</p> <p>It is ridiculous the GOP/Republicans in WI did not agree with extending the deadline for primary election voting! The WI Supreme Court as well as the US Supreme Court also were wrong in their decision. How dare they be inflexible and put people's lives at risk! Voters could have been exposed to the virus by standing in line for hours. Who knows if people maintained social distancing?!</p> <p>All of this risk could have been mitigated with absentee/mail-in voting. All people (including Republicans) would appreciate voting by mail so as to keep voters safe from the virus but also exercising their right to have their voice counted. It is inhumane and reckless to have people vote in person in this time of a pandemic. (There is no/very little voter fraud when voting by mail. Other states such as Oregon can vouch for this. Republicans in District 9 in NC engaged in election fraud! Election fraud is more of a</p>

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			<p>concern than voter fraud.)</p> <p>Please do what is right/best for the people of this state &amp; send us voters our ballots by mail for the Presidential election in November. If you don't do this and voters become sick/die then that is on you all!</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
04/08/2020 06:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Hudson	<p>1. Prepay postage for mailed ballot requests and returns. At present, voters must provide their own postage for mailed ballot request forms and ballot returns. Under normal circumstances, this is a burden for voters who want to vote by mail. However, the COVID-19 pandemic makes this a significant barrier to voting for two reasons: (1) many voters, but particularly the elderly and other who are most vulnerable to COVID-19, may be unable to procure postage in-person and (2) post offices are likely to have reduced in-person operations. In order to mitigate this problem, the Board should provide prepaid postage for both mailed-in ballot requests and ballot return envelopes.</p> <p>2. 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. The current mail-in ballot request process is onerous and outdated. In order to request a ballot, voters must either have access to a printer and be able to procure an envelope and postage, or have the ability (or ability of a close relative or legal guardian) to submit their request in-person. Voters who submit their request by mail more than two weeks before the election may, by virtue of imperfections in the postal system, be denied the right to vote if their form does not arrive on time—irrespective of when their request was postmarked. Given that millions of North Carolinians may request mail-in ballots by mail this fall, the current system has the potential to disenfranchise hundreds of thousands of voters. However, the legislature can make two simple changes to prevent this from happening. The legislature should (1) empower the Board to accept mail-in ballot requests over the phone, and via email, fax, and online fillable form, and (2) require the Board to honor all mailed ballot requests received by the Friday before Election Day.</p> <p>3. Allow near relatives and legal guardians to request mail-in ballots at polling locations during One-Stop Early Voting and on Election Day. At present, near relatives may request ballots on behalf of voters by hand delivering a ballot request form to the County Board of Elections a week or more before Election Day. Only in a narrow set of circumstances, such as a voter's illness or disability or anticipated illness or disability, can a near relative or legal guardian make such a request less than a week before the Election. Even still, the request must be made by the Monday before Election Day and only at a local Board office. In order to protect the voters most vulnerable to COVID-19, the legislature should make it easier for family members and guardians to request ballots on behalf of their loved ones and dependents who may be in isolation. The legislature should (1) empower the Board to accept in-person ballot requests made at any One-Stop Early Voting site or Election Day polling and (2) require the Board to honor all in-person ballot requests</p>

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			<p>made prior to 6:30 p.m. on Election Day.</p> <p>4. Allow persons other than near relatives and legal guardians to assist voters with requesting, completing, and returning ballots. At present, only near relatives, legal guardians, and multi-partisan assistance teams (MPATs) may make in-person ballot requests on behalf of voters, assist voters with the completion of ballots, and return those ballots. Given the limited amount of resources available for MPATs, this disenfranchises vulnerable voters who either have no near relatives or a legal guardian or whose near relatives or legal guardian are unable or unwilling to assist them with voting.</p> <p>Because a large number of voters, but particularly those who are vulnerable to COVID-19, who will be reluctant to vote in person due in the midst of a deadly pandemic, local Boards do not have the resources to ensure that every voter receives the help they need. The legislature should empower community organizations and/or individuals to assist voters with ballot requests, help those voters complete their ballots, and submit those ballots to local Boards.</p> <p>5. 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. Voter registration drives and other efforts to register new voters have been hampered by COVID-19 and will likely be impacted through the fall. In order to combat the suppressive effect that the virus is and will continue to have on voter registration efforts, the legislature should move the voter registration deadline so that voters can “one-stop” register to vote and request as mail-in ballot and restore same-day registration on Election Day.</p> <p>6. 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. At present, a voter must vote a mail-in ballot in the presence of two witnesses or a notary public. This requirement is already onerous for voters who live alone or have limited interactions with others. If the COVID-19 pandemic extends into the fall, the witness/notary requirement is likely to prevent thousands of voters who are most at risk from the virus from being able to cast a ballot.</p> <p>The purpose of the witness/notary requirement, confirming the voter’s identity and intent, can be achieved just as easily by obtaining the signature of one witness or allowing voters to confirm their identity and intent to an election official directly. By reducing the witness requirement, voters who are isolated at home or in a hospital or care facility, will be more likely to be able to vote. Voters who, because of social distancing, are unable or unwilling to have their ballot witnessed by others, should be able to certify their ballot by speaking with an election official. This could be done either in-person at a curbside drop-off site or over the phone with the voter providing some identifying information to confirm their identity.</p> <p>7. Allow voters and those assisting voters to return mail-in ballots at One-Stop Early Voting sites and Election Day polling places (including curbside). At present, voters and their near relatives and legal guardians may only return mail-in</p>

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			<p>ballots in-person at local Board offices. In order to lessen the burden on voters, those helping them vote, and local Board staff, the legislature should allow voters and others to return mail-in ballots at One-Stop Early Voting sites during the early voting period and at precinct polling places on Election Day.</p> <p>8. Count every mail-in ballot submitted by Election Day. At present, ballots mailed by the Election Day deadline are not counted if they are received after the following Friday. USPS will be likely be inundated with mail-in ballots this fall. Given that even under normal circumstances domestic mail often takes more than three days to be delivered, many voters will be disenfranchised even if they mail their ballot by Election Day. The legislature should relax this stringent requirement and allow for the counting of any ballot mailed by Election Day that is received prior to the final canvass.</p> <p>9. Establish a one-step process for registering to vote and requesting a mail-in ballot. At present, voters must submit separate forms when registering to vote and requesting a mail-in ballot. There is already significant overlap in the information required on the voter registration and mail-in ballot request forms. In order to lessen voter confusion and make requesting a mail-in ballot easier, the Board should create a single form, compliant with the existing statutes, that allows voters to register to vote and request a ballot in one step.</p> <p>10. Establish a robust and uniform system for notifying voters when the Board determines their ballot request or application is invalid. At present, there is no uniform process that County Boards must follow when they deem a ballot request or ballot application to be invalid. As a result, voters often</p>
04/08/2020 06:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Susan Hudson	<p>Medicaid expansion would stabilize hospitals and improve access to health care Medicaid expansion represents the most immediate and cost-effective way to stabilize rural hospital finances and expand coverage for North Carolinians. The effectiveness of Medicaid expansion in stabilizing rural hospitals has been dramatically borne out over the past several years, as the overwhelming majority of rural hospitals forced to close their doors were in states that have not expanded eligibility.</p>
04/08/2020 06:38 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Hudson	<p>People in prisons, jails and detention centers are uniquely vulnerable in this moment of a public health emergency. People in confinement have no control over their own movement and are held in close quarters without adequate resources for hygiene, creating the perfect conditions for the dangerous spread of COVID-19.</p> <p>It is essential that all government officials follow the recommendations from public health experts to stem the spread of the coronavirus in our communities by protecting the health and safety of incarcerated people, medical staff and correctional officers.</p>
04/08/2020 06:39 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Susan Hudson	<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.</p>

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			Ensure workers can receive benefits for 26 weeks, which is the national standard.
04/08/2020 06:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jane Barnett-Lawrence	We need a vote by mail option available to all. I do not want to stand in line at a polling place in November but I will be there if I have to. There is no way I am not casting my ballot. However, if I get sick I am going to blame the legislature for now allowing me to vote by mail instead. COVID-19 is a valid reason for an absentee ballot or to vote by mail.
04/08/2020 06:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Nancy Holliman	Please ensure that NC has absentee and mail-in voting set up and ready to go in time for the November 2020 elections.
04/08/2020 08:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Helen Rich	I support mail in voting
04/08/2020 08:32 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Helen Rich	I support Medicaid expansion
04/08/2020 08:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Rani Dasi	Please create a comprehensive plan for mail in voting for the 2020 general election.  Thank you
04/08/2020 08:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Bree Kalb	This pandemic makes it clear that the well being of our state depends on all our citizens having access to health care. It's past time to expand Medicaid to all who meet the Federal qualifications.
04/08/2020 08:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Rani Dasi	Please expand Medicaid throughout the state of NC. This will help all of our community members better thrive.
04/08/2020 08:40 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Bree Kalb	Providing benefits that create a safety net for our most vulnerable is good for the entire state, making our entire society more stable. It's time to pass legislation that expands unemployment benefits and that provides strong incentives for employers to provide paid sick days and family leave.  We also need to find a way to provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19  We really are all in this together and dependent on each other more than we realized.
04/08/2020 08:41 PM	Health Care Working Group	Cmo Summer Barlow	Thank you for your leadership for the people of North Carolina during this time of crisis. One policy solution that is needed now more than ever is Medicaid expansion. We know that this has been a highly political issue but this is a new time calling for new solutions. We know that all legislators are looking out for what's best for North Carolinians.  During this crisis and beyond, access to health care is critical to protect the health of

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			<p>individuals, their families, and our entire population. Please work together and pass legislation that would bring desperately needed federal Medicaid funds to our state and most importantly provides health coverage for our friends and neighbors.</p> <p>For many of the 500,000 North Carolinians who were in the coverage gap before the virus – the situation has become far worse. Many of these uninsured workers continue to work the front lines at child care centers, nursing homes, and grocery stores. They simply can't afford to get sick. And then there are the newly unemployed and uninsured: in March, well over 300,000 North Carolinians filed for unemployment insurance. Those numbers are rising daily and most of these people will be uninsured soon if they aren't already. Medicaid expansion has been shown to increase health outcomes and economic productivity in other states. It is a tool that will help us to successfully beat this pandemic together.</p> <p>Sincerely, Summer Barlow, MD CMO of Appalachian Mountain Community Health Centers</p>
04/08/2020 08:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Bree Kalb	We must shift to making voting by mail an option and do it soon, since we don't know if we'll be able to gather at the polls in November. Voting by mail works well in other places and has not led to voter fraud.
04/08/2020 08:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Rani Dasi	<p>Please consider releasing non violent offenders and ensuring that any remaining prisoners are provider soap, sanitary and safety supplies to protect them from Covid.</p> <p>Protect incarcerated populations and staff</p>
04/08/2020 09:59 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Pamela Wardell	My husband and I both have pre-existing health conditions. I would like to have no excuse absentee voting available for all NC voters.
04/08/2020 10:00 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Leroy Plock	We must protect the integrity of our elections and make every effort to ensure that citizens are able to vote without endangering their well-being. We must double the length of early voting and the number of early voting sites to thin crowding and allow people to vote while maintaining proper social distancing. We must take action to protect voters' health and well-being while voting and we must have a public messaging campaign to assure people their health will not be endangered when voting. We must make it as easy as possible to allow people to vote by mail (absentee voting.) Democracy hangs in the balance, we must not allow the pandemic to subvert the people's voice,
04/08/2020 10:42 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Grace McLain	We need to figure out how our elections will be held and how to keep them secure (the polling results) and accessible to all.
04/09/2020 12:13 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Amy Hawkins ND	Re: Naturopathic Doctors Can Help Fill the Healthcare Workforce Shortage During the COVID-19 Crisis

Dear Chairpersons and Members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19,

At the federal level, policy makers and the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) are making sweeping changes to immediately expand the healthcare workforce. We understand the need to make similar changes in North Carolina. In this vein, the North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians (NCANP) is grateful for the inclusion in Executive Order 121 which designates Naturopathic Doctors (NDs) as essential healthcare workers in North Carolina. Naturopathic Doctors are trained in 4-year, accredited Naturopathic Medical programs as doctoral level general practice healthcare providers and, with your approval, can be immediately engaged in the COVID-19 response to the full extent of their training and education.

With the anticipation of COVID-19 reaching its peak over the coming weeks, the NCANP would like to express the strong desire of our Naturopathic Doctors to help provide safe and effective healthcare for the residents of North Carolina. The full utilization of Naturopathic Doctors in North Carolina would help provide relief to our overburdened health care system and help reduce the morbidity and mortality that COVID-19 will bring to our communities. There are three primary areas where your committee could facilitate this relief:

1. Allow current Naturopathic Doctors Licensure legislation that is pending in the NC House of Representatives (H993/S573) to be passed so that more healthcare providers are immediately deployed in North Carolina. This pending legislation was drafted consistent with the recommendations set forth in the NCDHHS Recommendations for Appropriate Oversight and Regulation of the Practice of Naturopathic Medicine in North Carolina Report to the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on January 15, 2018. The work group was convened under the direction of Dr. Mandy Cohen and Walker Wilson, and included representatives from the NC Medical Society, NC Medical Board, and NCANP. It was the "position of the work group that the passage of licensure legislation will benefit the citizens of North Carolina by allowing them to enjoy the full benefit of healthcare options provided by qualified Naturopathic Doctors." It is important to note that in states where Naturopathic Doctors are currently licensed, they are providing triage and testing for suspected COVID-19 cases, palliative care for mild COVID-19 cases, and close monitoring so as to engage EMS and emergency department care rapidly when needed.

2. Include Naturopathic Doctors with out-of-state licensure to be included in the waiver of NC licensure requirements referred to in Section 16 of Executive Order 116. Currently, Naturopathic Doctors are licensed in 22 states, the District of Columbia, the US Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Naturopathic Doctors are already in place in North Carolina who are licensed in other states and jurisdictions and are trained as general practice healthcare providers. With a temporary waiver of NC licensure requirements and recognition of out-of-state licenses, these Naturopathic Doctors can be immediately engaged to help patients follow public health recommendations and abide by stay-at-home orders, assist with phone triage and order appropriate testing, help patients manage mild COVID-19 symptoms safely at home, and provide ongoing care to patients with other acute and

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			<p>chronic illnesses that still occur during a pandemic and are best kept out of urgent care facilities. Including NDs in the waiver will also allow mobilization of out-of-state Naturopathic Doctors as part of the healthcare workforce if the situation escalates to that level in our state.</p> <p>3. Issue guidelines or orders for out-of-state licensed Naturopathic Doctors, including those with temporary emergency licensure, to be able to register with the State Medical Response System (SMRS) as clinical providers. This would allow for assignment to the COVID-19 Medical Response Team and other teams such as the Capitol Medical Reserve Corps. Several of our NDs in NC have already registered with SMRS, but are limited in their capacity to serve due to a lack of recognition of their out-of-state licenses.</p> <p>To summarize, the NCANP asks you to utilize Naturopathic Doctors to the full extent of our education and training so that we can best serve our communities during the COVID-19 crisis. With our expertise in preventive medicine and patient-centered care, NDs are an essential component of a comprehensive healthcare system. Our Naturopathic Doctors are trained healthcare professionals who can be immediately engaged to assist the healthcare workforce in combating the COVID-19 pandemic. We ask you to please support Naturopathic Doctors in helping to save lives in our state.</p> <p>The North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians thanks you for your dedicated service and efforts in these trying times.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Dr. Amy Hawkins ND, President  North Carolina Association of Naturopathic Physicians  phone 910.367.5150  email drhawkinsnd@gmail.com</p>
04/09/2020 05:00 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Cassandra Brooks	<p>The issue many of the frontline childcare workers which is decreasing daily have is their coworkers have applied for unemployment. They chose not to work during this time due to the medical risk factors which affects 90 percent of childcare workers due to many not having insurance.</p> <p>The ones applying for unemployment will receive a \$600.00 week in addition to normal unemployment due to COVID-19. This will allow some to make anywhere from \$750.00 and higher a week depending on their wage.</p> <p>They are able to make at least two to five times more than their coworker who is working daily in a hazardous life threatening situation.</p> <p>Please note in childcare children and caregivers are unable to social distance and young children don't understand social distancing.</p> <p>The childcare workforce understands the CDC guidelines suggest not having a group childcare setting due to the risk of the caregiver and children.</p>

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			<p>However, we understand it is needed so nurses and doctors can take care of sick patients and police officers can keep our community safe.</p> <p>The childcare workers are deciding daily should they risk their life and families life to care for young children or stay home in a safe environment and make a lot more money on unemployment.</p> <p>What would you choose?</p> <p>Thank you for supporting frontline childcare workers who are actively fighting this pandemic day by day.</p>
04/09/2020 06:37 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ursula Lobacz	Due to recent events in Wisconsin regarding the primary election being held during the pandemic, NC needs to start planning for the upcoming November elections with absentee ballots and ways for people to vote without going to the polls. This needs to be considered due to the unknown regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and how long we will be dealing with it's effects.
04/09/2020 07:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Edward Witkin	<p>Given the challenges we are now facing with the Covid-19 situation, we need to be prepared for the upcoming election(s) by making absentee ballots and mail in ballots easily accessible to us all. We the people are tired of being lied to by a host of government officials starting at the one at the very top.</p> <p>We need to be able to trust our election system and trust the will of the people.</p> <p>Thank you</p>
04/09/2020 07:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Anne Everitt	I believe that we have to be prepared with other ways for people to vote, should the danger of Covid-19 creep into Fall. Either voting by mail or on the internet needs to be investigated so we can be ready ahead of time. Let's not wait until the last minute to be prepared.
04/09/2020 08:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	MS. Anne Everitt	As far as those incarcerated, the state needs to immediate implement ways in which to keep prison population and employees as safe as possible. Right now I imagine that situation is near impossible for people to keep 6' away from each other and when a break out happens it will move fast. Why not be proactive and immediately figure out ways to release inmates who are either close to time of release and or are on lesser non-violent charges? We have to think about this, because likely this is not the only crisis in our near future and plans to deal with it effectively should already be enacted.
04/09/2020 08:18 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Rachel Radford	<p>Good morning,</p> <p>I am a caregiver and mother to my two Autistic sons(ages six and nine.) One of my son's is disabled. I have no family help other than my husband and he has autism. When not caring for my son's I volunteer my time in IEP meetings with families, help find them resources, and offer support to my community in any way I can. My husband works 40 hours a week at a fencing company in Wayne county. We can not afford the \$600.00 dollars a month price tag for private health insurance. That amount is as much as our rent each month! How can anyone pay that much money for a "just in case I end up in the hospital" and be able to live without going behind on their bills? We make enough money for our children to qualify for Medicaid but make too much money to qualify for it ourselves. Caregivers to</p>

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			<p>special needs children do not matter in the state of North Carolina and we are treated as such by it's policies and lack thereof. I would like to see any politician step in my shoes and do what I do every single day and tell me why I do not deserve health insurance? Why my husband does not deserve health insurance? I want any politician to tell me why I'm less than for putting the needs of my son's Autism first before the needs of my own. I can't imagine where my son's would be in life if I had chosen my needs above there's. If I had chosen to work 40 hours a week so we could have health insurance instead of taking them to speech therapy, occupational therapy, play therapy, psychological therapy, social groups, and anything I could find to help them. My oldest son was nonverbal at two years old bashing his head on the floor because of sensory processing disorder every day. I had no idea what Autism was then and I didn't know how to help him. Could you turn away from your son at two years old and just go to work instead of helping his needs? I had to give up so much to help him! Early intervention therapies changed our lives and helped him get where he is today! Because of my efforts and the unwavering support of my husband, our son is nine years old, speaking, and he made a 5.0 on his math EOG last year. He still needs so much help to continue to succeed in life and therefore I continue to help him. Employers do not care about their employees health and well being they care about the well being of their pockets! My husband's boss is able to drive an expensive luxury car, has a beautiful house(several of them), and he goes hunting with Senator Jim Perry and Representative John Bell. It must be nice having political friends to keep you rich and have them vote the way you want them to! Perhaps I should take up hunting to help special needs families gain political advantage in my county? Do you really think my husband's boss cares about his health? He only cares about the profit my husband makes him by being able to do twenty hours of labor in ten hours or less. That's what he cares about. If you can make millions of dollars each quarter off of your employees hard working hands than they should have health insurance AND a liveable wage.... Right? They should not be living paycheck to paycheck and struggling while you enjoy the fruits of their labor! Lives do not matter in NC, but business always does. The "good ole boy system" in NC always prevails, especially in Wayne County. My life as a mother and caregiver to my Autistic son's does not matter. My sons are going to be engineers and scientists because of my determination, if only I live to see it. My health is not the best. I have bipolar disorder, endometriosis, ovarian cysts, fibromyalgia, TMJ, arthritis, and severe migraines. I pay out of pocket for appointments and prescriptions. I pay for a sams club plus membership to save money on prescriptions. Do you know for my trileptal that keeps my bipolar disorder stable is \$200.00 dollars a month at CVS, \$100.00 dollars a month at Walmart, and \$20.00 dollars a month at Sam's club (with \$100 per year membership)? I'm fortunate to have providers willing to work with me and allow me to make payments on my appointments. My nurse practitioner has to whisper with me about payments so her office manager doesn't hear her. She doesn't want to get in trouble for helping me. How can any politician be comfortable having health insurance paid for by the working backs of North Carolinians and not ensure that those North Carolinians have health insurance themselves? My husband pays for your health insurance but he doesn't deserve it as well? How can you sit in your positions and allow essential workers in North Carolina to not have health insurance by not passing Medicaid expansion with the COVID-19 so prevalent in our State? Please spend a day in my shoes or my husband's shoes before saying no to Medicaid expansion, AGAIN! When will your oath to the people of NC truly matter? My husband is an essential employee and does not have health insurance right now. I had to contact senator</p>

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			<p>Perry and Representative Bell so my husband and his co-workers would have working sinks, soap, and paper towels in the warehouse bathrooms because the employer refused to do this. It took a pandemic for my husband to be able to wash his hands in the bathroom only after his wife made the legislative request to make it happen! I made that request because of covid 19 spreading in our community and I should have never had to so!</p> <p>When will Medicaid expansion pass? When will the lives of North Carolinians matter to my legislative leader's? How can I ever look up to all of you when I say good bye to my husband every morning at 6:15am knowing he doesn't have Health insurance, is an essential employee forced to work, and he could catch this horrible virus at any time. I don't want to be a widow, please pass Medicaid expansion and protect our workers in NC! Please pass hazard pay for our essential workers risking their lives during this time! Please help us all! We matter! All lives matter!</p>
04/09/2020 08:20 AM	Health Care Working Group	Nan Friedman	Hello I'd like to voice my support of expanding Medicaid which is now so much more important to allow everyone access to healthcare. Doing this will benefit NC by keeping all of us healthier. The corona virus is a sad illustration of how lack of access to healthcare has a bad outcome for every single person in NC. Thank you
04/09/2020 08:25 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Nan Friedman	Hi I want to strongly support voting by mail which should really be the way every election is held. I also believe it's important to let more people know about mail in absentee ballots (many people are confused about this or have no idea this is an option). It's also not very clearly explained. It should be publicized more and in a clearer way. Finally, the mail in ballots and absentee ballots should have free postage. Thank you
04/09/2020 08:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Nan Friedman	Hi I would like to voice my support for paid sick leave for workers who get sick or have to care for someone who is sick. In reading about people with the corona virus, it sounds debilitating and impossible for sick people or their caretakers to also work. People in this situation should not lose their job or go unpaid. Also NC should be providing economic relief to people who have been affected by covid 19. Thank you
04/09/2020 09:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Tiffany Canaday	I believe in the interest of public health and safety all citizens should be able to vote by mail rather than in person in the upcoming general election in November 2020. Thank you for your consideration of my concern.
04/09/2020 09:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Huldah Bewley	We need to have voting by mail. Other states do it. If not total voting by mail, then easily obtained absentee voting.
04/09/2020 10:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patience Vanderbush	I urge you to plan ahead to make sure that voting is safe, secure, and accessible during the COVID-19 crisis. In particular, I hope that you will make voting by mail more accessible by increasing public promotion of this option, ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots, and requiring absentee ballots to be counted if postmarked or signed before the close of the polls on election day.
04/09/2020 10:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ann Sperry	Mail in ballots work in other states and can work here in NC as well. With or without a pandemic, it seems like something that needs to be considered and approved prior to the

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		November elections. Please move quickly to make this happen for all of the registered voters in NC.
04/09/2020 10:38 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Shannon Colangelo	<p>I am a court reporter/notary public. I need to be able to give a witness an oath prior to taking their deposition testimony, which currently cannot be done remotely. If I am on a Zoom videoconference, due to the stay-at-home rule, I can be shown the ID and see the witness via the video conference and be able to identify that they are the correct person, the exact same way I would if in person. NC Court reporters have been screaming for help from offices of Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Chief Justice Cheri Beasley, and even Governor Cooper for an emergency order allowing us to work remotely and it seems the only way is for the legislature to pass an order lifting the current restrictions of in-person-only notarial validation. Other states passed emergency orders allowing their court reporters to work remotely weeks ago. In North Carolina, we must be with the witness in person, which witnesses do not want due to risk of exposure to COVID-19, or take "unsworn testimony" remotely via videoconference or telephone, which attorneys would then be forced to struggle to have the transcript admitted at trial later to support their case, neither of which seems to be optimal as my depositions for the past 3 weeks have all cancelled.</p> <p>Please help freelance court reporters (public notaries) by issuing an order allowing the remote swearing of witnesses.</p>
04/09/2020 10:40 AM	Education Working Group	NC School Psychology Assn Rachel Beaulieu/ Lobbyist for NC School Psychology Association	<p>NC School Psychology Association</p> <p>NCSPA Supports Telepsychology Services for Our School Children March 29, 2020</p> <p>The North Carolina School Psychology Association (NCSPA) urgently supports School Psychologists' provision of Telepsychology Services to our students. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, NCSPA respectfully and immediately requests the following for School Psychologists' enhanced, immediate and ongoing delivery of Telepsychology services to all our students (both with and without disabilities) in an effort to address their increasing mental health and social emotional learning needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorize expansion of and compensation for licensed NC School Psychologists to serve additional students across school-district lines through Telepsychology. The problem now is that approximately 22 NC School Systems do not have even 1 (full-time) employed School Psychologist?. This translates into tens of thousands of children without access to such services, at a time when they need it most, and compounded by dire projections of mental health needs in the weeks and months ahead of us. Such state licensure expansions could also allow for much-needed mentoring and support for current School Psychology interns and early career School Psychologists as they navigate challenging times within their respective school systems.</li> <li>2. Authorize necessary statewide supports for School Telepsychology: special student needs, such as required equipment and services that current school supplies may not offer, for those students without internet access and who may or may not have a disability.</li> <li>3. Enact special incentives, School Psychology Recruitment tools, including bonuses and/or salary increases now, so that our workforce has a sustainable staffing pool to meet the needs of students in triage, as referenced in our 2020 NCSPA Legislative Agenda?. One</li> </ol>

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			<p>tool is a School Psychology Fellows program; also see ?HB 482/SB 382 School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment?.</p> <p>In accordance with guidelines set forth by our National Association of School Psychologists (NASP),  NC School Psychologists are uniquely qualified and stand ready to address these dire student needs as follows, among others:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. School Psychologists are the ?most qualified school experts on Children with Disabilities and Child Psychology? – the days, weeks, and months ahead will be some of the most trying times for our NC children, both with and without disabilities – we are experts in these triage situations and we rise to the call to action.</li> <li>2. School Psychologists have the unique perspective of knowing our students’ needs and their family circumstances which allows us to effectively and ethically provide assistance, services, and supports ?with fidelity while maintaining confidentiality?.</li> <li>3. School Psychologists recognize that face-to-face contact is the best practice for service provision but when that is not available, remote and/or virtual services can and should be used to address our students’ mental health and special education needs.</li> <li>4. School Psychologists assist school and district leaders in ?critical decision-making? to ensure that platforms used for virtual services are ?legally and ethically compliant?, including HIPAA compliant.</li> <li>5. In collaboration with Student Instructional Support Personnel teams, School Psychologists also have the ability to address immediate student needs through parent and teacher consultation, individual and group counseling, crisis management, and connecting families to local community resources, among many other services.</li> </ol> <p>Guidance for School Telepsychology and COVID-19 [links to these resources below are available by contacting NCSPA lobbyist]  NCSPA 2020 Legislative Agenda? –? NC must enact Salary Increases to recruit and retain more NC School Psychologists  NCDPI Virtual Related Services Guidance?  ? Discipline Specific Guidance for School Psychologists on Telehealth in NC Public Schools NASP COVID-19 Resource Center? –? Resources and guidance for School Psychologists, all educators, and parents.</p>
04/09/2020 10:45 AM	Health Care Working Group	NC School Psychology Assn Rachel Beaulieu/ Lobbyist for NC School Psychology Association	<p>NCSPA Supports Telepsychology Services for Our School Children  March 29, 2020</p> <p>The North Carolina School Psychology Association (NCSPA) urgently supports School Psychologists’ provision of Telepsychology Services to our students. During the COVID-19 Pandemic, NCSPA respectfully and immediately requests the following for School Psychologists’ enhanced, immediate and ongoing delivery of Telepsychology services to all our students (both with and without disabilities) in an effort to address their increasing mental health and social emotional learning needs:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Authorize expansion of and compensation for licensed NC School Psychologists to serve additional students across school-district lines through Telepsychology. The problem now is that approximately ?22 NC School Systems do not have even 1 (full-time) employed School Psychologist?. This translates into tens of thousands of children without</li> </ol>

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			<p>access to such services, at a time when they need it most, and compounded by dire projections of mental health needs in the weeks and months ahead of us. Such state licensure expansions could also allow for much-needed mentoring and support for current School Psychology interns and early career School Psychologists as they navigate challenging times within their respective school systems.</p> <p>2. Authorize necessary statewide supports for School Telepsychology: special student needs, such as required equipment and services that current school supplies may not offer, for those students without internet access and who may or may not have a disability.</p> <p>3. Enact special incentives, School Psychology Recruitment tools, including bonuses and/or salary increases now, so that our workforce has a sustainable staffing pool to meet the needs of students in triage, as referenced in our "2020 NCSPA Legislative Agenda". One tool is a School Psychology Fellows program; also see "HB 482/SB 382 School Psychologist Compensation and Recruitment".</p> <p>In accordance with guidelines set forth by our National Association of School Psychologists (NASP), NC School Psychologists are uniquely qualified and stand ready to address these dire student needs as follows, among others:</p> <p>1. School Psychologists are the "most qualified school experts on Children with Disabilities and Child Psychology" – the days, weeks, and months ahead will be some of the most trying times for our NC children, both with and without disabilities – we are experts in these triage situations and we rise to the call to action.</p> <p>2. School Psychologists have the unique perspective of knowing our students' needs and their family circumstances which allows us to effectively and ethically provide assistance, services, and supports "with fidelity while maintaining confidentiality".</p> <p>3. School Psychologists recognize that face-to-face contact is the best practice for service provision but when that is not available, remote and/or virtual services can and should be used to address our students' mental health and special education needs.</p> <p>4. School Psychologists assist school and district leaders in "critical decision-making" to ensure that platforms used for virtual services are "legally and ethically compliant", including HIPAA compliant.</p> <p>5. In collaboration with Student Instructional Support Personnel teams, School Psychologists also have the ability to address immediate student needs through parent and teacher consultation, individual and group counseling, crisis management, and connecting families to local community resources, among many other services.</p> <p>Guidance for School Telepsychology and COVID-19 [links to resources below available by contacting NCSPA Lobbyist]  NCSPA 2020 Legislative Agenda? – "NC must enact Salary Increases to recruit and retain more NC School Psychologists  NCDPI Virtual Related Services Guidance?  " Discipline Specific Guidance for School Psychologists on Telehealth in NC Public Schools NASP COVID-19 Resource Center? – "Resources and guidance for School Psychologists, all educators, and parents.</p>
04/09/2020 10:56 AM	Economic Support Working Group	CEO Tracy Scott	Hello. My name is Tracy Scott. I am in agreeance with the North Carolina Alliance for Health that funding needs to be put in place to ensure that programs to ensure no North

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			<p>Carolinian goes hungry. I recommend there be an inclusion to increase funding for Carolinas food banks and school nutrition programs, and removing barriers to accessing SNAP, WIC, and farmers markets. I would especially like to see these programs increase in areas designated as food deserts.</p>
04/09/2020 10:59 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Natalie Weaver	<p>Thank you for your leadership for the people of North Carolina during this time of crisis. One policy solution that is needed now more than ever is Medicaid expansion. We know that this has been a highly political issue, but this is a new time calling for new solutions. We know that all legislators are looking out for what's best for North Carolinians.</p> <p>During this crisis and beyond, access to health care is critical to protect the health of individuals, their families, and our entire population. Please work together and pass legislation that would bring desperately needed federal Medicaid funds to our state and most importantly provides health coverage for our friends and neighbors.</p> <p>For many of the 500,000 North Carolinians who were in the coverage gap before the virus – the situation has become far worse. Many of these uninsured workers continue to work the front lines at child care centers, nursing homes, and grocery stores. They simply can't afford to get sick. And then there are the newly unemployed folks who have become uninsured through no fault of their own. They should not have to face a pandemic without health insurance.</p> <p>Sincerely, Natalie Weaver Co-Founder Advocates for Medically Fragile Kids NC</p>
04/09/2020 10:59 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Samuel Stokes	Please help the poor people of NC! They are suffering!
04/09/2020 11:07 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Deborah Sorin	I want VOTE BY MAIL in November. Coronavirus will still be here then and we need a plan in place so we don't get sick and die from standing in line to vote.
04/09/2020 11:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ms kimberly kyser	I am writing in favor of voting by mail.
04/09/2020 11:29 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Nancy Jacobs	I absolutely support Medicaid expansion. Please pass this right away. It has been delayed too long, and it is unfair for so many to be uninsured.
04/09/2020 11:30 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs Peggy Link Weil	Please allow mail in voting!!!
04/09/2020 11:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Nancy Jacobs	<p>provide paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19</li> </ul> <p>It's important for all our residents get help with this if they need it. Otherwise so many</p>

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04/09/2020 11:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Nancy Jacobs	people will suffer horribly. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making voting by mail more accessible</li> <li>• increasing public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option</li> <li>• ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots</li> </ul> This is essential to our functioning democracy. We must be able to vote.....EVERYONE.
04/09/2020 12:07 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Gillian Rogers	I support the immediate expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina which would allow 500,000 North Carolinians to get health coverage. During this time of serious illnesses caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, we need to address the need for health care for all. Poor working class people have been neglected for too long and will die at a much higher rate because of our neglect!
04/09/2020 12:11 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Gillian Rogers	Please protect all NC workers and communities by providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all during this devastating pandemic. In addition, provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19.
04/09/2020 12:14 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Gillian Rogers	Please provide paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all during this unprecedented challenge of COVID-19. In addition, the state should provide economic relief to those most impacted by the pandemic. Federal help will not be enough for our working poor.
04/09/2020 12:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Gillian Rogers	Protect all NC workers and communities by providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all during this terrible pandemic. Also, provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19 because federal payouts will not be enough.
04/09/2020 12:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Gillian Rogers	Please plan ahead for the 2020 election and protect our constitutional right to vote by making voting by mail more accessible; increasing the promotion of the absentee vote-by-mail option; and ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots. Our democracy and freedom depend on your actions!
04/09/2020 12:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mary Phillips	I support Medicaid expansion to provide healthcare for all.
04/09/2020 12:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Gillian Rogers	Please make voting more accessible to all this year by doing the following: make voting by mail more available; increase public promotion of the absentee vote-by-mail option; ensure free return mail postage on absentee ballots. Our democracy and our constitutional right to vote depend on you. Citizens should not have to risk their lives standing in lines to vote. COVID-19 will still be a danger to us all in November.
04/09/2020 12:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mary Phillips	I support protecting NC workers by providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all.
04/09/2020 12:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Please make voting safer and more accessible to all NC voters by doing the following as soon as possible: make voting by mail easier; increase public promotion of the absentee vote-by-mail option; ensure free return mail postage on absentee ballots. It is your duty to protect our democracy and our constitutional right to vote. The COVID-19 virus will still pose a risk to citizens this fall and no one should risk his/her life in order to vote!
04/09/2020 12:33 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Mary Phillips	I support: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• making voting by mail more accessible</li> </ul>

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• increasing public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option</li><li>• ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots</li></ul>