

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/10/2020 03:00 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mark Mathison	All North Carolina citizens should have the right to vote under emergency circumstances. Please ensure a mail in voting is in place.
04/10/2020 03:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lorraine Rocco	All NC residents should be able to vote in the next election, even if there are social restrictions in place. Support everyone's right to vote by supporting a comprehensive vote-by-mail system.
04/10/2020 03:25 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Robert Weickert	The pandemic has exposed the gaps in our medical coverage. Time to re-think NC refusal to expand Medicaid, time to expand Medicaid!
04/10/2020 03:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Scott Boerckel	For the sake of electoral integrity, not just for North Carolina, but for its impact on the national elections, please do NOT make any change allowing any "comprehensive vote by mail" scheme. It will bring voter fraud and voting irregularities such that no outcome could ever be trusted, no matter one's political affiliation.
04/10/2020 03:57 PM	Education Working Group	Owner Nakita Douglas	None
04/10/2020 03:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Casey Gibbons	I think we need to start fining people if they are breaking the stay-at-home order. If people are having big parties or maybe having a curfew.
04/10/2020 04:13 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Kathryn Pollak	All NC residents should be able to vote in the next election. We can do so even with physical restrictions in place. Please consider mailed voting. Thank you for considering. Warmly, Dr. Kathryn Pollak
04/10/2020 05:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Linda Varosi	All NC residents should be able to vote in the next election, even if there are social restrictions in place. I urge you to uphold everyone's right to vote by supporting a reliable, comprehensive vote-by-mail system. Please put this system in place as soon as possible so ballots can be mailed out well before Election Day, and please inform the public widely. I would like to be kept updated regarding this issue. Thanks. Linda V.
04/10/2020 05:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Karl Strohming	My State Rep, Dr. Kristin Baker, recommended I share my thoughts with you all, following my personal communication with her. As I am an Industrial Psychologist, I will put my concerns in such terms. My concerns are for the economic well being of our people. Please read that as "economic WELL BEING"; meaning our economics determines our well

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			<p>being.</p> <p>Let's consider this in a rational, data driven, factual manner shall we? Check your emotions at the door, because yeah, all good decision start with fear....</p> <p>If the number of people who are infected with this virus goes up 700%, SEVEN.. HUNDRED...PERCENT.... It will still represent less than 1% of the US population. Given that the death toll is something like 3%, that means your chance of dying from this disease is less than .003%. OK, with me so far?</p> <p>Now, the US Chamber of Commerce says 1 in 4 small businesses will go bankrupt in this crisis. Small businesses and their employees make up 50% of the US work force, or, about 18%. Add to that the number of lay offs and down sizing, etc. that will happen, and one can easily see where the 20% figures of unemployment are coming from. The Great Depression saw a spike in unemployment at 24% in 1933, but mostly it hovered at 14%, meaning this will BE WORSE than the Great Depression. You want to be scared of something? Be afraid of that, my friends.</p> <p>Unemployment. In other words, new families in poverty. I'm a social scientist folks, with a lifetime in service carrying a badge and a gun, and three higher degrees, including a PhD. in psychology. I can tell you, the social ills and pain of poverty outmatch the minuscule chance of dying from this disease hundreds fold. Social ills such as destitution, bankruptcy, hunger, homelessness, depression, substance abuse, despair, domestic violence and suicide. You want an epidemic that will REALLY change the face of this country, wait until 20% of the population is dealing with fighting these demons off.</p> <p>But you go right on ordering us to stay home, believing everything a power encroaching government says, letting them manipulate us out of fear, destroying the very fabric of our society. Me? I'm going back to work.</p> <p>Respectfully submitted, Karl T. Strohminger, Ph.D. Concord, NC</p>
04/10/2020 05:58 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Reverend William Garrard	Please be sure that all persons can vote and include a vote by mail option to be prepared in the possibility that we still might a rebound of the virus and stay at home requirements. The health and safety of our citizens, as well as the viability of our democracy, depends on your making this happen. Thank you.
04/10/2020 09:22 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Melissa Stanat	It is crucial that every registered NC voter has access to cast their ballot in the next election, even if there are recommendations in place for physical distancing due to the pandemic. Everyone should have the right to access a comprehensive vote-by-mail system.
04/10/2020 09:59 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Charles Baker	It is time. We simply can not let the economy of our nation and our state be totally destroyed. Our focus should be to determine ways to protect people WHILE they work. Protection by isolation is not hard it's just expensive. Surely the minds of our leaders and

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			our brilliant medical people can devise ways to enable us to work safely. There are countless small businesses that may not survive now and certainly won't very much longer. Most attention has been given to protect businesses by covering employee expenses. That is good but it is the one-man businesses, mechanics, plumbers, barbers, landscapers, accountants etc who will not survive. And with billions.. no trillions.. of dollars being spent our very nation may nor survive. It is real money. It has to come from somewhere and it will have to be repaid. Make it your job. Get this state back to work. It is time!
04/10/2020 10:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Julie Williams	If the COVID-19 pandemic limits or prevents NC polls to be open for ANY election, we must be able to vote by mail, electronically, or any other remote method! PLEASE DO ALL THINGS you can to support such an effort.
04/10/2020 11:24 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Rachel Mills	We must reopen the state immediately. It's not realistic to stay locked down anymore. The models were wrong. They built social distancing in and it's still not even 100 deaths. The hospitals have been emptied out and now even they are starving. This is madness.
04/10/2020 11:27 PM	Health Care Working Group	Medical Care Tonya Combs	I am speaking as a citizen here in Guilford County. I have been disappointed to see how Cone Health's executive body has managed to treat employees, by first discouraging masks and then changing their thinking to everyone wearing one. I am also sad to see that some PCPs have not taken this virus serious enough and encouraged medication to help with pneumonia, both viral and bacterial, by offering patients at least both medications to treat as such while people are self quarantining. I'm also sad to hear that a friend of mine took her 13 year old daughter to THREE providers while she was sick with "community Pneumonia" before anyone finally prescribed and admitted her to the hospital as she was gravely ill. This should not be happening and a better plan should be in place of how to handle these situations with your top notch "in the trenches" physicians and nurses putting their heads together to administer care. We need to go back to the old way of where PCP's followed their patients to the ER and took care of them! Too many internists who don't know patients!
04/11/2020 06:52 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr John Wrenn	The time has come to allow vote by mail in all NC elections. There is no significant data to support and increased risk of voter fraud and vote by mail is already in use successfully in several states. For the health of our democracy, vote by mail should be instituted immediately.
04/11/2020 08:06 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Matthew James	I would request that the committee comment on how they expect residential providers to remain open during COVID-19, when unemployment benefits are providing \$23 an hour to remain at home. We faced a Support Professional crisis before COVID-19 and now we see in the news group homes and nursing homes where staff simply do not show up. We need emergency hazard pay that exceeds the unemployment benefits if we are to convince prospective applicants to come on board. We also need emergency PPE in all long-term settings. Please comment on what this committee is doing to ensure the stability of residential providers who have received a pittance of support from MCOs (10-30% temporary rate increases, all with different effective periods). Further, we request this committee obtain and review all emergency disaster plans held by DHHS & their MCOs to respond to communicable disease outbreaks.

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			Thank you. Respectfully on behalf of the women and men who brave the COVID-19 frontlines without adequate PPE, health care or financial security.
04/11/2020 09:38 AM	Health Care Working Group	Gale Lackey	I support expansion of Medicaid coverage that would allow 500,000 North Carolinians to receive health coverage.
04/11/2020 09:44 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Gale Lackey	Please protect all NC workers and communities by providing paid sick days, family leave and full unemployment benefits for all. Also, provide economic relief to those most impacted by COVID-19.
04/11/2020 09:51 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Gale Lackey	Please make voting by mail accessible to all voters in NC. Please increase public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option. Open restrictions on absentee voting through November elections. Please insure free return mail postage on all absentee ballots.
04/11/2020 11:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dana Antonuccio	NO CORONA VACCINE MANDATE. When the vaccine manufactures have no liability and DEATH is listed as a side effect we must be FREE to REFUSE this dangerous pharmaceutical. When there is risk there must be choice! You are in the space to choose FREEDOM over medical tyranny. PROTECT THE RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION.
04/11/2020 01:04 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Miss Greta Lint	I want to commend the state employees who have been working non-stop to fix the unemployment website and get it so freelancers can use it. Being able to access the site and use it has been a bloody nightmare. But, the website is not clear about one thing . For people who were not working 5 quarters ago, but were working when the virus hit and were laid off, ESC is sending letters that these people do not qualify for the \$600/week unemployment. That is wrong and needs to be clarified.
04/11/2020 01:22 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Catherine Cresswell	It is essential to change our election process in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. I have seen no evidence that mail-in voting is fraught with voter fraud. Mail-in voting would be the most cost-effective and safest method for this election in this most unusual time. I have worked the polls, but as a citizen who is in the high at-risk for severe complications category, I will not be working the polls in November. Protect your poll workers and your citizens. Conduct the November 2020 election with mail-in voting.
04/11/2020 02:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Margaret King	Given the contagious and deadly nature of COVID-19, the lack of a vaccine, and the probability that there will be another wave of this virus in the fall, I strongly encourage this committee to promote an election in Novemer where ballots are mailed in. We must avoid the example of Wisconsin in their recent primary, where many voters had to physically go to the polls if they wanted their vote to count, choosing to jeopardize their health in order to exercise their right to vote. Please enable all North Carolinians to exercise their right to vote without putting their health and safety at risk.
04/11/2020 02:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Sarah Goodnight	I am writing to state my support for vote by mail as it is successfully done in Washington state. My sister who lives in Seattle says there has been no evidence of any voter fraud, it is a system for voting that insures that every registered voter has an opportunity to cast a vote by mailing in their ballot.