

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/14/2020 03:03 PM	Education Working Group	Afraid of 2nd Wave Emily Martine	I have two high school aged kids and an underlying autoimmune condition that puts me at great risk if I get COVID. I also have elderly parents who are vulnerable. I am very afraid of a second wave hitting next fall after the kids go back to school and before we have a vaccine. I would like options for those of us who are willing to keep our kids home longer to protect vulnerable family members. I would not mind more online instruction or a "gap" year while I home school them. I realize many kids need to go back to school because it provides free childcare and free lunches, but I encourage you to please provide options for those of us who don't need those social services and don't want to risk our health and lives. Thank you.
04/14/2020 03:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Patricia Mondie	We request that NC be reopened as soon as possible. The financial ramification to small business in this state is astronomical. Business owners are in danger of loosing everything. The psychological effects of being isolation can lead to depression & even suicide. Please save the people of NC. Allow us to use common sense & keep ourselves safe.
04/14/2020 03:17 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Rudy Medina	Please expand Medicaid to allow our uninsured residents to have access to primary care which is much more cost effective than care sought in the ED.
04/14/2020 03:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Erica Palmer Smith	<p>Dear Members of the House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Care Working Group:</p> <p>Thank you for your demonstrated commitment to protect the health of North Carolinians, and for considering legislation that will improve our state's response to Covid-19. The North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services has requested the ability to provide coverage for treatment of Covid-19 related illness for uninsured individuals with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level, via a Section 1115 demonstration waiver to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services. As you know, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("Families First") currently provides limited coverage for ONLY the cost of testing uninsured individuals for COVID-19. We urge you to pass legislation authorizing this request, pending CMS approval of the waiver.</p> <p>Approximately 500,000 North Carolinians currently lack access to affordable health insurance. As our unemployment numbers continue to rise through this crisis, we will continue to see more North Carolinians lose their health insurance.</p> <p>Timely access to testing and treatment is critical to slowing the spread of Covid-19. Providing this limited coverage will ensure no North Carolinian will go without necessary medical care if faced with this virus. Removing the inability to pay, and the fear of crippling medical debt, will also encourage patients to seek out care sooner. This earlier intervention may reduce both their risk of health complications, as well as the length of time they can transmit the virus to others prior to their own diagnosis.</p> <p>This limited coverage will also allow our health providers a source of reimbursement as they care for Covid-19 patients. Reducing the uncompensated care costs our providers face during this crisis is critical to maintaining a robust healthcare system in our state.</p>

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			<p>Care4Carolina believes North Carolina must find a solution to close the health insurance coverage gap, for the long-term health and economic well-being of our state. We believe this immediate step to protect existing and newly uninsured patients in the middle of this global Covid-19 pandemic is a critically important measure and a good first step toward a healthier North Carolina, now and in the future.</p> <p>Thank you for your work on behalf of all North Carolinians during this difficult time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Erica Palmer Smith, Director The Care4Carolina Coalition</p> <p>About Care4Carolina:</p> <p>Care4Carolina is a statewide coalition of health providers, business and community leaders, civic groups, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and medical and professional associations.</p> <p>Care4Carolina seeks to strengthen the economic and social wellbeing of our state by increasing access to affordable, quality healthcare for all North Carolinians.</p> <p>Members include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> AARP Addiction Professionals of North Carolina Advisory Committee on Cancer Coordination and Control American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network American Heart Association/ American Stroke Association Carolina Loggers Association Chatham County Health Alliance Cone Health Cone Health Foundation Disability Rights NC Duke Health System Duke Lifepoint Healthcare Foundation for Health Leadership & Innovation Healthcare for All NC Insight Human Services Justice-Warren Heart Disease and Stroke Prevention Task Force League of Women Voters of North Carolina Leukemia & Lymphoma Society March of Dimes North Carolina Methodist Federation for Social Action NC MomsRising National Alliance on Mental Illness, North Carolina (NAMI NC) National Association of Social Workers North Carolina (NASW-NC) NC Academy of Family Physicians NC Aids Action Network

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			NC Alliance of YMCAs NC Association of Local Health Directors NC Center for Nonprofits NC Child NC Citizens for Public Health NC Coalition on Aging NC Community Health Center Association NC Early Education Coalition NC Justice Center NC MedAssist NC Pediatric Society NC Psychiatric Association NC Psychological Association NC Public Health Association NC Rural Economic Development Center North Carolina Alliance for Health North Carolina Association of Free and Charitable Clinics North Carolina Healthcare Association (NCHA) North Carolina Medical Society Novant Health, Inc. OIC Family Medical Center Old North State Medical Foundation Partnership for Prosperity Stroke Advisory Council The Carolinas Center for Hospice and End of Life Care The National Multiple Sclerosis Society The North Carolina Dietetic Association Wayne County Strong Wayne Memorial Hospital Western Carolina Medical Society Wilkes Recovery Revolution, Inc. Winer Family Foundation
04/14/2020 03:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Amanda Mixon	<p>Small businesses are already discussing what to do with the PPP funds from the SBA. If 75% is spent on payroll, that it is forgivable. If Cooper keeps the state shut down, what good is that? Now if they survive, they will have to repay the loan. Then add employees are being told they will get \$600 on top of their NC unemployment. Employees would rather take the ESC money and stay home instead getting paid their averages wages and stay at home.</p> <p>ALL businesses should be allowed to reopen. People are getting IRS money and small businesses that need the help are not allowed to open because local governments are threatening them. Who cares if it only one customer at a time, give them a fighting chance to compete.</p>
04/14/2020 03:24 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Mrs Susan Bergman	Please reopen businesses and let us decide what is safe for our own lifes. Isolate the vulnerable.

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	Public Safety) Working Group		
04/14/2020 03:25 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Denise Finck-Rothman	<p>I am a family physician working in two low cost clinics, one as a volunteer. I witness weekly the heartache caused by the failure of our legislators to agree to the expansion of Medicaid. So many suffer because of the cost of their health care limits their access to care. Please cover the uninsured in our state by expanding Medicaid. North Carolina is missing out on billions in federal health care dollars that could benefit our state.</p> <p>Also consider supporting an Improved Medicare for All at the Federal level. This would take the burden of health care off the shoulders of the state governments, simplify our health care system and save a trillion dollars in administrative cost that could benefit all Americans.</p>
04/14/2020 03:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Nichole Visnesky	Please continue to enact the stay at home order so that we can keep our communities safe as we fight COVID-19.
04/14/2020 03:32 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Mebane Boyd	<p>Thank you for your leadership for the people of North Carolina during this time of crisis.</p> <p>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 an unprecedented time that calls for new solutions.</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. The best ready-made way to make healthcare more accessible is to pass legislation to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. This would bring desperately needed federal Medicaid funds to our state. and most importantly provides health coverage for our friends and neighbors. These are federal dollars! Not North Carolina dollars! Why wouldn't we accept these funds from the federal government?</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.</p> <p>Please be bold, courageous, and willing to step outside your comfort zone to do what is best for North Carolina.</p> <p>Sincerely, Mebane Boyd, Director, New Hanover Resiliency Task Force</p> <p>Additional messages / talking points that may be helpful:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • North Carolina is already making changes to Medicaid to protect their residents from COVID-19. This builds upon those changes.
04/14/2020 03:37 PM	Continuity of State	Sheila Fellerath	I strongly support the efforts of the State Board of Elections to respond to the

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	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		unprecedented challenges COVID-19 poses to our election system. Voting is the bedrock of our democracy and voters must be protected from risks to their health and lives as they exercise this fundamental right. In particular, the State Board of Elections must be given flexibility to respond to true emergencies like pandemics. Mail in absentee voting should be made easier and more accessible which is entirely possible without compromising the integrity of the process. The State should also cover the cost of postage for returning the completed ballot so that miscalculations on the amount of postage needed (or the simple unavailability of stamps) do not prevent mail in ballots from being counted.
04/14/2020 03:38 PM	Health Care Working Group	Say NO to mandatory vacci Kathy LaVergne	Mandatory vaccination is un-American. VACCINES will NEVER eradicate a virus, especially one that has changed multiple times since its discovery in late 2019. The ONLY way out of this it TRUE herd immunity... not fake vaccine induced 'immunity' that wear off. Develop programs to help support those who have weak immune systems, and stop scaring the public. Vaccines will not do that. And if you feel a vaccine is non-negotiable - make sure the manufacturer can be held liable for any and all injuries.
04/14/2020 03:39 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Virginia Clifford	support Medicaid expansion to provide healthcare coverage to the previously uninsured as well as those who have lost coverage as a result of losing their jobs in the Covid crisis.
04/14/2020 03:39 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. david tayloe	As Chair of the Ethics Committee for our 200+-bed hospital, we worry about hospitals having to eliminate revenue-generating health procedures and services during the COVID-19 crisis, and then getting overloaded with critically ill COVID-19 patients, and not having the necessary funds to pay for the staffing and equipment necessary to meet the needs of patients during the crisis. If we could take advantage of the federal funds earmarked for NC under Medicaid expansion, we could really help our hospitals and our patients during the COVID-19 crisis.
04/14/2020 03:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Tara Smith-Russell	Thank you all for listening to the scientists and data experts and making decisions to keep North Carolinians safe during the covid19 crisis. Please continue to listen to guidance from these public health experts as we look toward the future. Despite the economic toll the stay at home order is taking on my own family and community, nothing is as important as our health. Please know you have my support to continue the stay at home order for as long as the experts deem necessary.
04/14/2020 03:43 PM	Health Care Working Group	Richard Clifford	To the Health Care working group: I support Medicaid expansion to provide healthcare coverage to the previously uninsured as well as those who have lost coverage as a result of losing their jobs in the Covid crisis.
04/14/2020 03:44 PM	Health Care Working Group	Richard Clifford	To the Health Care working group: I support Medicaid expansion to provide healthcare coverage to the previously uninsured as well as those who have lost coverage as a result of losing their jobs in the Covid crisis.
04/14/2020 03:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Richard M Clifford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the Economic Support working group: I support providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all impacted workers, including "gig workers", as well as support for vulnerable small businesses.
04/14/2020 03:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Bonnie Greene	We have no income because we are considered non-essential but do not qualify for ANY help because we are self employed and don't have payroll. There is not data to justify this much of shut down and literally crippling the economy.
04/14/2020 03:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Michael Atwood	If this is a health emergency requiring a state of emergency and unprecedented loss of freedom, why is the April 14 briefing from the Governor's emergency management team

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		talking about inequity in health insurance and medicaid expansion. This has nothing to do with a Covid-19 crisis? What am I missing, oh that this is the Governor's administration using a health issue to drive a political agenda. What can the general assembly do about removing the Governor's emergency powers as he is way more dangerous than the Covid virus.
04/14/2020 03:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. evelyn sanborn	I have no health insurance stil,I because of NC Republicans. What happens if I get this virus and need hospitalization?
04/14/2020 04:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Randy Riddle	<p>I would like to submit my opinion concerning calls to "ReopenNC". I feel that the calls to go back to "business as usual" are, at best, misguided and misinformed and, at worst, dangerous.</p> <p>I work at Duke University and count my health professionals, researchers, and scientists among my friends and colleagues. I also have seen the experience of other countries dealing with the virus. I believe what the top health professionals in our state are saying - as much as it may hurt businesses and families, only tragedy and death can come from reopening schools and businesses before the virus has played out.</p> <p>As a student of history, I'm familiar with what happened during the dire flu pandemic of 1918. States and cities that didn't take social distancing and quarantine measures seriously or ended them early would up with devastating, widespread illness and death.</p> <p>I am disturbed by the so-called "ReOpen NC" activists. Looking at their Facebook group, it is a hotbed of conspiracy theories, anti-vaccination, and fear-mongering health misinformation. Public policy and safety shouldn't be determined by a small group of misinformed activists, more interested in their pet theories on the Constitution or completely false information they've heard spread on social media.</p> <p>Yes, the proper measures to protect the public are difficult. Yes, they're disruptive and even devastating to small businesses and families. However, this is a public health crisis - this is not the time to put blind faith in junk science and rumors.</p>
04/14/2020 04:07 PM	Health Care Working Group	Caitlin M.	I am concerned that there is talk about mandating a Coronavirus vaccine. I am strongly opposed to this. Please allow N.C. residents to make their own medical choices.
04/14/2020 04:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Donna Mergliano	Please support means to enable people to vote in the November election despite pandemic restrictions. We need the funding to enable Boards of Elections to provide safe polling places, if at all possible, and to prepare to handle a great increase in absentee ballots. It may well be necessary to provide for most people's voting by mail, a feasible alternative to a situation like that in Wisconsin. Fraud has never been documented in any great numbers despite claims to the contrary., and part of the preparations for mail in voting might well entail measures to help alleviate the potential for fraud.
04/14/2020 04:16 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Russell Lichtenstein	Enough is enough. Please open up the economy. The lasting effects of a closed economy far out weigh the immediate effects of the Coronavirus
04/14/2020 04:20 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Donna Mergliano	For NC to recover from the effects of this pandemic, we must support our small businesses as well as the many workers who are suffering now from closures and loss of "gig" opportunities. In our two tier society of those who are economically secure and

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			those who are working for low pay and no health benefits, those at the bottom of the economic scale are often those who are keeping the rest of us safe. We have to upend our system to some degree to provide a recovery and decent living for those folks who need our help.
04/14/2020 04:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Richard M Clifford	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To the Continuity of State Operations working group: I support allowing citizens of North Carolina to exercise their right to vote without risking their health or their lives, and making voting more accessible to all voters, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o making voting by mail more accessible; o increasing public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option; o ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots; and requiring more early voting days, expanded hours per day, and locations that provide easy access to all segments of the population including, but not limited to racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly and resident college or university students.
04/14/2020 04:33 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Reopen NC Jill Jankoski	As per Gov. Cooper, reopening NC would be "catastrophic" right now. I respectfully disagree. Catastrophic is the millions of healthy NC residents who cannot work or pay their bills bc of faulty models. We have 10.6M NC residents, 5,024 Covid-19 cases, 108 deaths, 418 in the hospital...we lose approximately 1749 NC residents to flu & pneumonia annually, & we've never shut everything down for that in the 17 years I've lived here. CATASTROPHIC is the BILLIONS in economic damage being done, the untold mental & emotional damage being done every day this continues, the furloughed medical professionals not allowed to work because all the beds are reserved for a medical hurricane that's hitting NY but not NC... catastrophic is the medical treatments on hold for millions Because of fear porn attached to bad models. Stop it! Stop it and use common sense! Put NC, small business owners back to work and get the PEOPLE aka the ECONOMY of NC working again!!! Immediately.
04/14/2020 04:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Sandra Matza	Do not ease restrictions. At this time we are flattening the curve. As an RN working in med surg oncology with covid patients on my floor, we do not need a heavy increase in cases. We are working with changes in PPE protocols that are unprecedented unproven and inappropriate per previous research and regulations...including manufacturer guidelines. The economy will recover, you only get one life.
04/14/2020 04:41 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Economic support Charles Chapman	We need to let businesses get back to work. Not only do they serve the families and people of our community they also provide jobs and income for all North Carolina. Without being able to work and generate revenue I feel we will suffer greatly under next year's tax burden to make up for the loss revenue.
04/14/2020 04:43 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Jeff Hunnicutt	PLEASE do not lift the stay at home order too soon! It will result is more spread of this deadly disease to the entire state population. Follow the advice of the medical professionals and scientists. Yes the order is hard but it is for the greater good! The life you save may be your grand parents.
04/14/2020 04:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Gov coopers resignation j c	WE The People of NC, for violation of oath of office, and the infringement of our constitutional rights, seek the immediate resignation and removal of the tyrannical democratic governor of NC Roy Cooper. You are not the voice of the people and have violated and infringed upon the very constitution that you swore to uphold protect and defend.
04/14/2020 04:46 PM	Economic Support	Gov coopers resignation	WE The People of NC, for violation of oath of office, and the infringement of our

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	Working Group	Jared C	constitutional rights, seek the immediate resignation and removal of the tyrannical democratic governor of NC Roy Cooper. You are not the voice of the people and have violated and infringed upon the very constitution that you swore to uphold protect and defend.
04/14/2020 04:46 PM	Education Working Group	Gov coopers resignation j c	WE The People of NC, for violation of oath of office, and the infringement of our constitutional rights, seek the immediate resignation and removal of the tyrannical democratic governor of NC Roy Cooper. You are not the voice of the people and have violated and infringed upon the very constitution that you swore to uphold protect and defend.
04/14/2020 04:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Gov coopers resignation j c	WE The People of NC, for violation of oath of office, and the infringement of our constitutional rights, seek the immediate resignation and removal of the tyrannical democratic governor of NC Roy Cooper. You are not the voice of the people and have violated and infringed upon the very constitution that you swore to uphold protect and defend.
04/14/2020 04:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Michael Burger	This lockdown is destroying small business... The economic impact of this continued lock down will devastating to the state and will take years to recover... Please open up this state...
04/14/2020 05:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. David Smith	I hear that NC police are now arresting people for peaceably assembling. This is a clear violation of the 1st Amendment. The so-called state of emergency that the governor declared does not suspend the Constitution. You as our legislators need to take action to protect citizens from our activist governor immediately. The economy of this state is being destroyed for no reason. Less than 100 people out of a population of over !0,000,000 have died supposedly from this virus. Our poor media does not tell us hte ages or prior medical condition of those people but my bet would be that many of them were dying already. this loss of life is horrible, but it is not worth sacrificing the livelihoods, property, careers, and most importantly our freedoms. PLEASE take action to stop these executive orders and the destruction of our state. Thank you.
04/14/2020 05:13 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Jeannette Wilson	Reopen NC. Allow the free residents of our great state to determine staying at home or not. Small businesses are the backbone of our economy. The Constitution has been violated by this nonsense. Stop it!
04/14/2020 05:46 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Janice Smith	Our country is only strong when the health and education of all people of addressed. Therefore, providing Medicaid increase, provide the opportunity for all children 4 years to be enrolled in a quality pre-k learning environment. Further emphasis in accountability of both parents and educators so all children receive a quality educational experience. Improvement in evaluating teacher effectiveness so it promotes educational advancement for all. Finally, utilizing qualified educators yo mentor, train and evaluate teaching staff so mediocrity does not be considered enough. Our children and this nation deserve better educated children so they can meet the job requirements. Let's stop system-wide, racial - wide and exclusive learning standards. We are at risk of too many jail, and not enough education.
04/14/2020 05:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Natalie Davies	Hello All, Thank you for any and all support of the stay-at-home order and restrictions. Seeing that they are working in flattening the curve and the apex date keeps getting further out is evidence that it is doing its job.

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			<p>I would ask that you continue to support the stay-at-home order at least until the end of the month to ensure continued success. I would also ask that the opening and easing of restrictions be taken slow, with care, and utilizing the data so we don't go backwards or worse.</p> <p>Please make it a priority to get PPE in for our hospitals, healthcare workers, first responders, city workers and non-profit organizations out in the field.</p> <p>Lastly, the minority and marginalized community has been grossly highlighted in this pandemic by inherently broken systems in place. I would ask now that ignorance is no longer an excuse available to overlook this need, that big changes be made to serve them with housing, accessible testing and healthcare, fresh food and long term support.</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
04/14/2020 06:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Tate MacQueen	<p>Do not give in to the radical fake pro-lifers, who are protesting to reopen our state before we have any idea what the true virus penetrance is because of inadequate data from a woefully small number of tests completed. This is a pandemic and the transmission is extremely efficient and the mortality rates are too high to prematurely open up our state. We can not rely on the GOP controlled legislature as they have proven how destructive they are based on the record... we are counting on Governor Cooper to maintain the stay at home policy until we have the testing in place!!!</p>
04/14/2020 06:17 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. K. Ryan Parker	<p>I would like to give my support to governor Cooper and his staff for implementing executive orders that have saved the lives of hundreds of North Carolinians and prevented thousands from contracting COVID-19. While we all want a return to normalcy, the decision to do so should not be made in haste, or due to the pressure of those who place their personal interests ahead of the citizens of the State of North Carolina. I understand there is a very vocal minority who want to apply undue pressure to the GA by placing their personal agendas ahead of the safety of others. As individuals these people are uninformed and emotional citizens who are merely coping by lashing out at those who support stay-at-home orders to keep infection rates low. As a group, they are dangerous, having just recently held an illegal protest violating the executive order. These groups are claiming that their constitutional rights are being violated but in reality they have very little concern about the welfare of others, particularly healthcare workers and the socioeconomically marginalized. To wit, quarantines are protected by the Supreme Court. I specifically site, historically, after the end of the Revolutionary War, Philadelphia was isolated to control the spread of yellow fever. By the time the Constitution was drafted and approved, quarantine was already a well-established form of public health regulation. States, as part of their police power, were deemed to have the authority to order quarantines to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. In 1905, the Supreme Court declared state mandated quarantines Constitutional, writing: "Upon the principle of self-defense, of paramount necessity, a community has the right to protect itself against an epidemic of disease which threatens the safety of its members." In 1926, the Supreme Court wrote: "it is well settled that a state, in the exercise of its police power, may establish quarantines against human beings, or animals, or plants."</p> <p>As your constituent, I urge you to make the right decisions to keep all North Carolinians safe and to reject the pressure from these small groups that disregard science, data and empirical evidence.</p>
04/14/2020 06:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Joan Spradlin	<p>I support the Stay at Home guidelines the NC government has set for the safety of the citizens. I have tracked the daily numbers of the deaths in NC and we are not seeing the</p>

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			high rate of deaths as other states. This has to be due to the good governance of all in government, esp. the legislators of all parties who are supporting the citizens and residents of NC. I encourage this Committee to consider all matters to reopen our government, economy and social lives carefully and to please follow the recommendations of public health and our rich scientific experts. Thank you for being Bold and leaders in the country.
04/14/2020 06:28 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Martha Poole	My husband and I would like to thank all the personnel in governmental agencies that continue their jobs maintaining services at this risky time. Their sacrifices are appreciated. We are very concerned that North Carolina is #41 in the Unemployment Insurance payments for those less fortunate AT ANY TIME- not just in this time of severe need. It is disgraceful and embarrassing that the NC Congress has refused to help the poor in this state. That will surely be remembered in November. We are also very concerned that the state will force a return to full work far too soon considering the presence of the virus. Please keep the health of your constituents as a priority, not the dollars you put into your pockets. Shame on the US Congressmen who sold their stock just after the congressional meeting last month and came through richer, rather than to take hits like the rest of us. Your actions are also embarrassing. This too will be remembered in November.
04/14/2020 06:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Tammy Stanley	Open NC. What you are doing is unconstitutional & nothing or no one overrides the constitution! I will not comply. I will not sit, stay or rollover like a good dog. The so called executive order you have issued is null & void since you didn't obtain it legally. We the people of NC will bring a civil suit against you. You will be known as the biggest failure ever in the state of NC!
04/14/2020 07:06 PM	Health Care Working Group	Velma Ferrell	I support the expansion of Medicaid to those who have previously been uninsured and to those who have now lost their health insurance because of losing their job.
04/14/2020 07:08 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Velma Ferrell	To the Economic Support working group: I support providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all impacted workers, including "gig workers", as well as support for vulnerable small businesses
04/14/2020 07:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Velma Ferrell	To the Continuity of State Operations working group: I support allowing citizens of North Carolina to exercise their right to vote without risking their health or their lives, and making voting more accessible to all voters, by: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o making voting by mail more accessible; o increasing public promotion of absentee vote-by-mail option; and o ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots.
04/14/2020 07:14 PM	Health Care Working Group	COVID-19 Lauren Niermann	<p>Hello Sir/ Mam.</p> <p>I am commenting on behalf of the proposed policy of mandating vaccination for COVID-19. To mandate this vaccine would be a grave mistake in our states history or even our country's history. The research process alone to develop a vaccine takes years, trials, long term research of side effects and data compilation. To rush this process or mandate any vaccination that the side effects haven't been thoroughly studied is putting EVERY one of North Carolina constituents at great risk, and where there is risk there absolutely has to be a choice. There have been proven results from the use of regulated specialized medicines in the fight against COVID-19. When North Carolina starts mandating ANY</p>

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			vaccine I hope they will also assume all responsibility for the side effects, long term medical care of harmed patients, and expenses accrued through interventions needed for individuals that will suffer under these mandations... Or will North Carolina turn a blind eye to the harm these mandated vaccines will inevitably cause. You have to ask yourself as a U. S Leader, Representative and Senator, am I upholding my oath? By taking away our medical freedoms to mandate a vaccine for a virus that has a 98% survivability rate, is this policy really about "protecting" your constituents?
04/14/2020 07:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Lanny Ealey	We should make assurances that voters are able to vote with absentee ballots I November. Extend early voting! Extend the ability to mail in votes.
04/14/2020 07:22 PM	Health Care Working Group	Social Distance Benita Gwynn	My opinion is that you should create legislation supporting the continued social distancing including but not limited to stay at home until scientists and public health officials feel that it safe not to. Support the funding of supplies to improve NC's testing, contract tracing capacity. Require NC companies to manufacture PPE so that providers won't run out. Improve the unemployment system so that those who are out of work can pay their bills. Disallow lessors and mortgage owners from evicting or foreclosing on people's homes during this time. Require them to tack on the months of the pandemic to the end of the loan, or lease, at 0 interest and without penalty. Find a way to do it. Do not require high school students to take NC Final Exams this semester.
04/14/2020 07:38 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	ReOpen NC Atacy Layton	Closing "non-essential" businesses is an infringement on Constitutional rights. And, it has decimated the economy. It also had no data to support it from its inception. You are wrong, Governor, to continue on this path. We ask that you choose to do the right thing.
04/14/2020 08:09 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Brandon Muhaw	I believe the response to this virus is causing more problems than the virus itself.
04/14/2020 08:17 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Diane Becton	This charade has gone on long enough. We can all do the math. Our state has been shut down, lives and incomes destroyed for a small fraction of NC's population. This is a virus that is manageable by most at home. Look at that tiny amount that have been hospitalized or died compared to those who have contracted it. As for death rate, we also know that cancer patients will die because their treatments are being interrupted or postponed. Cancer diagnoses are being overlooked because a virus , just a virus has tied up medical care. Stop the insanity. Give the people the freedom that is theirs. What has been done in NC is unconstitutional to begin with.
04/14/2020 08:17 PM	Education Working Group	Patricia Campbell	It is time to reopen the state of NC. It is neither wise nor healthy to have people confined to their homes when they can be out doing productive work. It is not wise to make arbitrary decisions about what is 'essential', depriving people of their own free choices. As a person who has lived in depressed areas (due to unemployment), I have seen the resulting alcoholism and suicides first hand. Our state deserves better than that. Please open safely and shortly.
04/14/2020 08:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	RN Deborah Holland	If we are still in the stay at home ordnance and safe distancing in November, will there be Mail in ballots and no voter ID's?

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/14/2020 08:37 PM	Health Care Working Group	Chanika Crowder	I advise quarantine stay in place because we as health care workers are already spread thin and can't be replaced! Many people still don't believe it will effect them but if they keep this nonchalant attitude then it will effect them and us even more. Be thankful we're still able to go out. I do advise better structure to Cumberland County Schools with daily work in which we had initially but then it was taken away! All parents aren't good at teaching and this gave us a plan for the day at least. I don't feel I need to go to work and care for patients and come home and figure out a lesson plan as well.
04/14/2020 08:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Bradley Jordan	I am asserting that our governor cooper is unfit to govern. He instituted shut down orders that are in direct violation of the United States constitution . He is also in violation the North Carolina state constitution, in particular, the 5th amendment. His orders were done by executive order without the consent of the general assembly which is also a violation. I asked that he be removed before any other violations occur. He has also authorized actions that prohibit the ability of 1st to be observed.
04/14/2020 08:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Abbie Dickinson	I support Medicaid expansion to provide healthcare coverage to the previously uninsured as well as those who have lost coverage as a result of losing their jobs in the Covid crisis.
04/14/2020 08:48 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. David Listrom	Religious groups are the primary source of grassroots, community based assistance to the needy. They provide a necessary service during these difficult days. Restriction of religious groups is an economic burden to the citizens of our dear state. Citizens have the right to practice their religious beliefs without government interference. The state should not attempt to interfere with the operation of the churches, as it has negative economic impact.
04/14/2020 08:49 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Abbie Dickinson	I support providing paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all impacted workers, including "gig workers", as well as support for vulnerable small businesses.
04/14/2020 08:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Abbie Dickinson	I support allowing citizens of North Carolina to exercise their right to vote without risking their health or their lives, and making voting more accessible to all voters, by: Requiring more days and hours/day as well as more voting locations to permit easy access to the entire community including, but not limited to, racial and ethnic minorities, the elderly, and college/university students.
04/14/2020 08:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	Candace Allen	#reopennc is honestly unfathomable. We havent even peaked yet.
04/14/2020 09:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	JP Phinney	I own what was a successful chain of natural dog/cat supply stores in NC named Unleashed. My wife Amy and I built our company with no investments or loans of any kind, starting the NC State Fairgrounds Flea Market in 2007. Never have we needed anything from money lenders or the state/federal government for assistance with our business. That has all changed now, and unless we make a turn in the right direction, the lasting imprint of this mishandled health scare will be transformative. Everyone is ultimately responsible for themselves, as humans always have been. The place you are in the life right now is a culmination of the choices you have made up until this point. The state should not have the power, and especially not solely the governor, to dictate that people can no longer work, recreate in public spaces or peacefully gather for any reason. If something drastic isn't done to return the power of choice to individuals, small/medium businesses in NC will just disappear. No matter what assistance the federal government may be promising, the reality is the spirit of business owners like me will be mortally

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			wounded, and any help will almost definitely arrive too late and be too little.
04/14/2020 09:33 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Audrey Whitlock	How can we keep doing this when the numbers do not indicate we need to be shut down. I know that everyone who reads this KNOWS the models baked in significant social distancing. We can not keep this up. My family has lost their jobs, closed their business and people who depend on me for income now can not even get unemployment because NC is so slow. I need therapy for my developmentally disabled child he is falling behind and he needs me to fight to get therapy back for him. Please I am begging you. Do not keep your fellow Americans imprisoned in their homes. We need to go to the Dr, make money, feed our familys, and LIVE like Americans are supposed to.
04/14/2020 09:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Must Reopen NC Meleah Allard	North Carolinians are suffering! Many small Businesses will not make it another month. People's livelihoods are at stake. Additionally, The Governor's orders are unconstitutional. Our first amendment allows us the ability to gather & worship. With a mandate of 10 or less that is impossible for most churches. Please do the right thing. We are counting on you!
04/14/2020 09:44 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Paula Cooper	I would like to make record my strong support of keeping social distancing in effect until that time arrives where mass testing is available to everyone. I will not feel safe in my county, state or even country until not only is mass testing available (for asymptotic carriers and those who have recovered as well as the average citizen) and preferably a vaccine. There are too many unknowns with COVID19 and the risk are high for a large majority of the population including myself as I have asthma. As a 57 year old woman with asthma, I would most likely die. I'm alone with my dog and it's no fun (for him either). But until criteria can be met to insure the public's safety, social distancing is the only sure cure.
04/14/2020 09:45 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr mike dunn	GET US BACK TO WORK!!!
04/14/2020 10:02 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Michael Moorefield	While looking at the nature of the coronavirus potential detrement to the public's health some preventive actions have been warranted. At this point in looking at the massive economic costs it is imperative that restrictions should begin to be eased. If we compare the risks of the Covid 19 virus to other things like simply driving a car it is documented as having at most half of the risk. The oppressive action of our state government and governor should be planning as are other States such as Texas to move to restore our Constitutional rights as citizens of greater America. We should however open things intelligently in order to mitigate risk to the more succeptable citizens such as elderly and etc. To put self limiting measures against our very livelihoods are becoming unsustainable, oppresive, unrealistic, illogical, and against the very spirit that built our great state and country. These times are surreal. Opening things up now is not an option. To tarry will do unrecoverable damage to our revenue engine that is accruing daily.
04/14/2020 10:10 PM	Economic Support Working Group	End stay at Home Order! Brandon Ratcliffe	Wake up Governor Cooper the curve has been flattened, mortality rate far lower than originally predicted, health care systems not over run, economy already ruined, and unemployment soaring! REOPEN OUR ONCE GREAT STATE OF NC ITS TIME BEFORE MENTAL HEALTH & HUNGER ISSUES DOMINATE!
04/14/2020 10:14 PM	Economic Support Working Group	James McClure	Without working we will be bankrupt
04/14/2020 10:15 PM	Economic Support	sarah barlow	This Corona virus needs many precautions but with the jobs of people being taken away is

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Working Group		not healthy for the economy and for the people trying to survive.
04/14/2020 10:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	self Katherine Rowe	Please keep the stay-at-home order until health officials give an all clear message.
04/14/2020 10:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Eleanor Greene	<p>April 14, 2020</p> <p>Dear Committee:</p> <p>I am Dr. Eleanor Greene and have practiced medicine in North Carolina for over 25 years. I am writing today as a long time patient and physician advocate, urging you to act swiftly on a package to help reduce sickness and deaths due to Covid 19 in North Carolina. As you know, North Carolina has an estimated 400,000 to 500,000 citizens who are in the coverage gap. They are people who work but do not make enough money to purchase health insurance. And without health insurance, it is difficult to impossible for them to get health care when needed. And now that we are facing the worst health care crisis in our lifetimes, the Covid 19 pandemic, it is critical that we act now to close the coverage gap in North Carolina. Closing the coverage gap will also help shore up the financial stability of our hospitals in small and rural communities. Some of these hospitals already struggling to stay afloat will be pushed into bankruptcy and have to close if something is not done. If the citizens living there could with your help, now pay for their care, it would help these hospitals keep their doors open to take care of the additional numbers of Covid 19 patients that will come in.</p> <p>Across the country we have seen this pandemic cause hospitals to become overwhelmed with the sick and dying. In response, more hospitals had to be hastily built. We certainly cannot afford to lose needed hospitals that could care for people in our rural communities. The larger tertiary hospitals alone will not be able to sustain the waves of sick patients.</p> <p>My other plea is for you to take action to obtain and distribute the personal protective equipment to our doctors, nurses and other hospital personnel on the front lines of this battle with the Coronavirus. It breaks my heart to know that these courageous people have to ration and reuse PPE, risking our own health well-being to take care of our patients. Based on the experiences in other places, we could still find ourselves in crisis levels of sickness soon even though many North Carolinians are being responsible and sheltering at home.</p> <p>Thank you so much for hearing me. I pray for our country, our health care workers and each of you in the North Carolina General Assembly. I ask that you will take swift action to ensure that more North Carolinians get access to the health care that they need and that our health care workers will be supported with adequate protective equipment and supplies.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Eleanor Greene, MD, MPH</p>
04/14/2020 10:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Jennifer Marshall	Our numbers are lower than many other States because we are used to hurricanes and emergency response. Our folks need to catch on quicker to flattening the curve by staying home. Testing is not happening at the pace it needs to and the ball got dropped on tracking and isolation to really defeat the spread. It's ok- we are resilient and our diverse

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			manufacturing to farming nature will win this out. We need to stay home until we know how many are going to sicken, die and need burial. This is unprecedented for our world and state. We are going to need our medical teams, researchers and cleaning teams to be healthy and fully supported. We need rapid testing and isolation. We need to be prudent and steady. The economy is not a real thing- sorry. Hypothetical money structures and corporate entities that have already caught ridiculous levels of tax breaks do not get the blood sacrifice of our most vulnerable or our elderly. Feed the machine later- it will survive. What if was your family member? Say the names out loud of the ones YOU WOULD KILL to save something inanimate. I'll wait. We must go slowly and clearly our federal system has left us to our own sad desperate devices. I'm more concerned with how we are going to defend our resources for the DC structure trying to steal them. Handle that first.
04/14/2020 11:14 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Catherine Giardino	Please explain how Dare County has the authority to restrict access to neighboring counties, based simply on control of state and federal highways running through the county. Additionally, please explain why residents were not given strict stay at home orders when access was restricted for visitors and non resident home owners. Lastly, please explain the constitutional legality of restricting access to personal property without the consideration of compensation or tax relief.
04/14/2020 11:17 PM	Health Care Working Group	Trey Rollman	We should most certainly be continuing our current isolation protocols, while no one likes it, it is a distinct safety hazard to act like things are normal. Hospitals are still full of patients who need care, both with and without COVID-19. There are too many people, and simply not enough space in healthcare facilities, or staff to care for those patients either; going without the precautions we have in place now will cause greater issues and create more problems.
04/14/2020 11:26 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Julia Poole	As a small business owner in Winston-Salem, me, my partners, and other business owners are genuinely concerned that continuing this state shut down beyond 4/30 will have repercussions so far reaching that indeed the "cure" will actually be the ruin of far more people and families, physically and financially, than this virus would ever have impacted. At some juncture, there will be a point of no return for many of us. Let's get back on track in our great state. Thank you for your time.
04/14/2020 11:33 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Debbie Everly	We need to maintain social distancing and the current stay at home orders. Now is not the time to reopen for business nor will we be ready at the end of the month. Lives are at stake. We need a solid plan to reopen that keeps the most people safe.
04/14/2020 11:39 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Traci Veenstra	Make sure that there are safe working conditions before opening schools. There are many high risk staff members. Do all you can to support students living in poverty while we are out. Ensure that all staff are paid. They are all working hard to support distance education.
04/14/2020 11:40 PM	Health Care Working Group	Marlene Barney	Encourage Gov. Cooper to join the existing coalition with the VA and MD Governors and DC Mayor in order to share ideas, best practices, and resources, and to plan for reopening schools and businesses in a safe, secure, and strategic way when appropriate.
04/14/2020 11:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Ennis Baker	Please contain the spread of the virus and of misinformation and conspiracy theories from groups like Reopen NC
04/15/2020 12:11 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Re open NC Emily Goodman	NC needs to reopen and start building back the economy. Please vote no in response to keeping NC closed longer.
04/15/2020 12:14 AM	Health Care Working	Do it now Rev.	Just put NC back to work and stop the assault on civil liberties.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group	Christopher Little	Now.
04/15/2020 01:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Maria Brecher	Hello! We really need to be able to vote by mail! Please make sure that this option is available to all voters, especially in light of the covid19 situation. It is projected to peak again in fall 2020, just in time for the elections. A resurgence of virus would have disastrous effects on voter turnout to polling places. Being able to vote by mail from home would encourage voter participation in the election, and ensure that ALL voices are heard. Thank you.
04/15/2020 01:31 AM	Education Working Group	Mr Joseph Bryan	Investigate doctors signing Death Certificates under CDC guidelines requiring them to assign COVID-19 as Cause of Death disregarding long term health problems.
04/15/2020 01:36 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Caroline Weaver	Please do not end the shelter at home order in NC until medical experts deem it appropriate. We need to save the lives of North Carolinians.
04/15/2020 01:39 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Churches are essential Wilfred Ruck	Issuing orders that prevent people from worshipping is a direct violation of the free exercise of religion
04/15/2020 02:56 AM	Education Working Group	Tracey Bass	Mandatory vaccination is un-American. VACCINES will NEVER eradicate a virus, especially one that has changed multiple times since its discovery in late 2019. The ONLY way out of this is TRUE herd immunity... not fake vaccine induced 'immunity' that wears off. Develop programs to help support those who have weak immune systems, and stop scaring the public. Vaccines will not do that. And if you feel a vaccine is non-negotiable - make sure the manufacturer can be held liable for any and all injuries."
04/15/2020 03:13 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Economic support Adele Finley	Hi I'm directly affected by this virus. As a server I haven't worked since March 12 2020 when my job was shut down. I also am not eligible for unemployment. I understand this is a serious virus but believe that you are going too extreme for the situation. I think we as a state are losing more than we are gaining with the measures being taken. Yes safety is a concern but when it becomes a choice between safety and your livelihood and eventually your freedom then I say you need to let your freedom win. As an adult I think we need to start realizing that people are more than capable of using common sense in being safe. You need to re-open our state to commerce the people need to be able to support themselves
04/15/2020 03:55 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Crystal Cloer	We need to open NC by May 1, 2020. Our small businesses and the entertainment industry (DJs, performers of all types, and musicians) are suffering greatly. Many of us have little or no income at this time. Look at the numbers. As of April 13, 2020, NC had 4,816 confirmed Covid-19 cases, with 313 currently hospitalized, as reported by NCDHHS. Now look at the unemployment numbers. As of April 13, 2020, 561,000 have filed for unemployment due to the Covid-19 crisis, as reported by Governor Cooper. Is it worth putting 561,000 or more people out of work, which is ruining NC's economy, when we only have 4,816 confirmed Covid-19 cases, out of which only 313 are currently hospitalized? The people of NC want to go back to work. Open NC by May 1, 2020.
04/15/2020 04:05 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Pamela McCormack	We cannot hide away because Covid-19 forever. Let those who chose to go back to work, go back to work. Those who are afraid or consider themselves vulnerable can remain home. The only thing we have to fear is fear itself.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 05:33 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Lift Restrictions Matthew Rusch	The various restrictions are causing unthinkable damage to the mental and emotional health of citizens. Please allow churches, businesses and parks to open immediately.
04/15/2020 06:52 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Science & caution Lani Hashimoyo	Please use science and caution for public health in your choices. The loudest voice is not automatically correct. Physical distancing is working to prevent overwhelming our HC system which was more fragile than we wanted to admit. Prepare for second wave. Support Medicaid expansion now. Your actions now will be your life legacy. Don't let party politics sway what is best for NC.
04/15/2020 06:57 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Patricia Ronay	The time has come to open up our state. The harm that the closure has done to small and large businesses alike is far outweighing the number of cases of the virus here in North Carolina. Most people have enough sense to take precautions to protect their health. The state officials are far out reaching their duties and usurping the citizens rights.
04/15/2020 07:14 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Catherine Hart	Eventhough my daughter is missing key senior events, if lifting stay at home orders are lifted too soon, she may miss her graduation. Staying home at least through the end of April is having the desired effect. We simply don't have enough information about this virus to risk the lives of North Carolinians. Please keep stay at home in place until May 1 and, if safely possible, allow for high school graduation; for some this is their only graduation.
04/15/2020 07:28 AM	Education Working Group	Mr James Higginbotham	We need to start opening back up the economy of NC. This pandemic has not hit nearly as bad as the "experts" have predicted and it's time to start on May 1 with precautions to open our state back up.
04/15/2020 07:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Mary Cole	Until all people who work with the public have safety masks/gloves/sanitizer we cannot safely "return to normal". Essential Businesses such as grocery stores should supply their employees with these items and require them yo use them.
04/15/2020 07:37 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Julie Branstetter	REOPEN NC NOW!!!
04/15/2020 07:39 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	9pm-6am curfew Jo Ann Tshako	Why, if there is a curfew are there so many places open and so many people traveling on the roads? I got off duty at Fort Bragg at 9 pm and I couldn't believe that Krispy Kreme was selling hot fresh donuts. Why are they even open? I think that if you're going to have a curfew, you must have measures in place to enforce said curfew.
04/15/2020 07:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Susan Norman	Reopen NC by May 1
04/15/2020 07:58 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Covid-19 Reopen Plan Michelle Ackerman	As a state, North Carolina desperately needs a reopen plan so that citizens can see some glimmer of hope. Stay at home is absolutely not the "new normal" for this state. And the governor's leadership team needs to be educated on how using that term is setting this state up for long term financial catastrophe. A plan would give the citizens a better sense of how we "unwind" this in a highly strategic way.
04/15/2020 08:06 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Annie Caulkins	Opening up the shelter in place order too soon, without a solid plan and without testing in place would be dangerous and irresponsible. There's no way to know how we should emerge from our homes without knowing who is infected. Please do not succumb to

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 08:33 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ginger Cason	pressures from those who want to open up the shelter in place order before it is safe. I encourage you to consider opening NC up by May 1. While I understand that there is a health crisis, there is also an economic crisis that is doing more damage than the virus currently. Thank you!
04/15/2020 08:39 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Starr Watson	Governor, please keep NC closed until we can be safe again. Also, start incarcerating the idiots ignoring stay at home and protesting in public. Their ignorance exacerbates an already hellish situation.
04/15/2020 08:42 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms La Verne Carter	I believe STRONGLY in citizens being allowed to vote by mail!
04/15/2020 08:43 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Stay at home martha cutler	I am making my voice heard that we need to stay home until we have proper testing and the Healthcare providers say it is safe to go back out. We need a gradual opening when the time is appropriate or we will have more cases and all of us staying home now will have been a huge waste. These protestors are being selfish.
04/15/2020 08:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mail in voting Martha Cutler	we need to provide mail in voting in November. This is dire. We cannot allow for our votes to be suppressed.
04/15/2020 08:46 AM	Health Care Working Group	Reopen NC Jeremy Rinehart	Please allow dentists to get back to work. Not being allowed to perform "elective" procedures during this period is going to create lots of urgent issues going forward. Prolonging this shut down of our offices is going to have a massive negative impact on the oral health of the people in our communities and in our state.
04/15/2020 08:51 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Donna Bloomer	I feel the current stay-at-home guidance needs to continue until we are able to determine through antibody or other testing (at least a representative sample of) citizens' exposure and recovery. This is an unprecedented pandemic caused by an insidious virus. Patience is needed! And, voting must be available by mail until it is safe for polling places to operate as usual. Thank you! And,
04/15/2020 08:57 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Sean Smith	My name is Sean Smith and I am an executive board member of the Charlotte International Cabinet. I am also a Product Designer at Wells Fargo. We just received a briefing from Representative Autry on the Rapid Recovery for Small Businesses plan. It is my belief that the result of this action is a raw deal for small businesses and will end up providing harm rather than relief in the long run. Is the interest for the first 6 months deferred? Or is there zero interest for 6 months and then interest begins to accrue on month 7? I hope you will reconsider the interest rate on these bridge loans, particularly at a time when the Fed has reduced rates to below 1 percent. This 5% rate, by comparison, seems a bit predatory, particularly in tandem with the idea that in no instances will these be considered for forgiveness. Now is not a time to for inexpedient and timid support programs.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 09:05 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Ennis Baker	Please expand Medicaid to protect all NC families - now
04/15/2020 09:06 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Khadijia Tribie	There are so many reasons to expand Medicaid. COVID-19 is now another. I am a community health center pediatrician. I care for families who are uninsured. Sixty percent of the families I serve are people of color. People of color are disproportionately affected by COVID-19. Although African Americans, specifically, make up less than 13% of NC's population, African Americans represent 39% of deaths related to COVID-19. This is a striking disparity. One of the reasons for this lack of parity is that African Americans also are overrepresented among the state's uninsured. In addition, people of color often occupy jobs on the front lines, childcare, house keeping, medical staff, in which exposure to COVID-19 is increased. Medicaid expansion would not only decrease this healthcare gap, but it would help to decrease disparities in infant mortality and help us sustain our successes with maternal mortality racial gaps.
04/15/2020 09:08 AM	Health Care Working Group	Tax payer Gary Lancaster	We appreciate the concern for safety and the care to protect all human life. However the numbers do not match the fears and restrictions imposed upon the Citizens of NC and Americans. When other strains of the flue such as h1n1 infects 1.4 billion people world wide annually and kills 575 thousand world wide and doesnt shut the world down , break the medical industry, infringe upon our constitutional liberties, ban churches while muslims go freely to their mosque in America how in the name of Heaven do you justify bank rupting the people and collapsing an economy by blanketing people with fear over a virus that has caused a fraction of sickness and death as other flue strains. We are not buying this let the economy run , people meet for public worship and let the people manage their lives with common sence self and social restrictions. Note: when states pass liberal abortion laws to destroy healthy human life (respectfully) do you think most Americans believe the government is acting on behalf of our health! GARY LANCASTER
04/15/2020 09:13 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keep N.C. Safe Jennifer Bennington	Please don't listen to the political agenda driven group insisting we open the state. Listen to science and watch the data. Listen to those who understand epidemiology. We are all having a hard time, but NC can get through it. I'm alive today because my great grandfather took his/my family to the hills to wait out Spanish Flu. Staying at home and social distancing works. If we want to help small businesses, let's truly help keep their businesses afloat during this time through grants and donation. I have ideas if anyone will listen.
04/15/2020 09:16 AM	Health Care Working Group	Attorney James Williams	Expand Medicaid
04/15/2020 09:19 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Ellen Peric	I am in favor of following Governor Coopers lead in taking an educated and fact based approach to opening the economy. We still need more testing.
04/15/2020 09:21 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Kari Thatcher	It is still too soon to lift the stay at home orders. We won't know for another week & a half how many people got sick from going to an Easter service, and it could be three weeks before we know if the guidelines about assisted living & nursing homes is helping. Paid sick leave for all workers (part time & shift workers especially) is of utmost importance so that people aren't incentivized to ignore their symptoms and keep going to work.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			We have a shortage of frontline workers to keep grocery stores open, & public health professionals to do contact tracing. Please create a jobs program for people to get access to medical & public health training, and another for folks to be hired by grocery stores/essential businesses.
04/15/2020 09:21 AM	Education Working Group	Ms Dana Bango	Don't be swayed by people who want to reopen NC too soon. They don't have everyone's best interests at heart. Also expanding Medicaid should be looked at again. You are hurting more than 100,000 low income working people by being too stubborn to provide affordable health care. It's not in the interest of the general welfare. Thank you.
04/15/2020 09:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Ellen Peric	I approve giving Governor Cooper emergency powers to address voting issues in light of continued pandemic restrictions. Very much in favor of voting by mail.
04/15/2020 09:22 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Follow SCIENCE John Burns	The question of reopening NC for business as usual must be answered by relying on medical science, not political pressure. We should do much more to support those who are harmed by the proper response to this virus, but reopening too soon will kill many who do not need to die. My paycheck is not worth my mother's life.
04/15/2020 09:22 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Deirdre Baker	Until we have a science / research expert based plan, reopening the state for the sake of reopening is not prudent to protecting the long term health and financial welfare of NC / the US ... It can be done but WITH AN EXPERT BASED PLAN. PLEASE!??!
04/15/2020 09:23 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Expand voting methods John Burns	Make it simpler to vote absentee.
04/15/2020 09:26 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Use SCIENCE to reopen Jocelyn Midgett	Please continue to use facts and science in judging when best and how to relax social distancing measures not radicalized protestors. I own a small business and have be gravely affected by I value lives over my business which I can rebuild
04/15/2020 09:26 AM	Health Care Working Group	Denise Bruce	The curve is only beginning to flatten here in NC! I know that people are getting antsy, but it is for the health of every citizen of NC that we continue with sheltering in place. We have a real chance to defeat this and not cause long term damage to the citizens of NC. Please continue to listen and seek out the advice of our world renowned Epidemiologist, and Public Health Professionals.
04/15/2020 09:30 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Stay Home through May Robin Eller	Please don't reopen our state too early. Keep this virus within the limits of our health system.
04/15/2020 09:32 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Carmen Zepp	Please utilize data-driven, fact-based information when making your decision about reopening the state. Lives are at stake and we only have one chance to go down on the right side of history. Continuing quarantine measures until the virus has peaked is the only right decision.
04/15/2020 09:32 AM	Health Care Working	Matthew Snider	I am appalled by the trampling of constitutional rights in this state. The state government

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		can provide information and guidance about any threat, real or perceived, to the people. The government otherwise, however, must let the people take care of, and take responsibility for, their own safety. The state has no authority to suspend the inalienable rights of the people whether there is a virus or not. And we do not consent to handing our rights and our livelihoods over to the state or the unelected health "experts" that the state may be consulting. The North Carolina General Assembly has requested comments? Here's a comment - start standing up for the constitution you swore to uphold.
04/15/2020 09:33 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr Bradley Tanner	<p>My small business in Chapel Hill has been shut down. Our office is accessed by car. All desks are at least 6 feet apart. In short, we pose no risk. I am sure there are 1000 other NC companies just like mine. Open them up and find out that they will not become a super spreader of the virus.</p> <p>The longer this goes on the weaker my company becomes and the fewer work and contracts I will get. This action is harming a company with 20 years of success and dedication to North Carolina. As other states open up, the work will go to them. If, as some recommend, this needs to continue to 2022, then I will have no choice but to move my company to a state that values economic viability. The risk of NOT opening up companies like mine is far greater to the prosperity of North Carolina and its citizen's than the risk we pose to public health.</p> <p>Bradley Tanner, MD, ME, MBA President, Clinical Tools, Inc.</p>
04/15/2020 09:35 AM	Health Care Working Group	Stay Home Sheila Richardson	Expand Medicare and Open Enrollment for ACA!
04/15/2020 09:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Teri Cole-Smith	<p>In light of the fact that COVID is just NOW starting to hit my rural WNC community, I am strongly encouraging you to keep stay-at-home orders in place. Please help keep our rural community hospitals from even greater catastrophe than we are already seeing with shutdowns.</p> <p>In addition, there is also a strong need to create a coalition of people brainstorming the safest and most innovate ways to being NC back to work once it becomes medically advisable. This coalition would look at virus testing, antibody testing, which industries to bring back first and how to do so most safely, how to fund and create local community help looking for new jobs or ways to return to their old jobs, how to integrate new methods of working from home into the "new" economy, programs to assist people whose finances have become completely upside down create financial plans to help them get back on their feet, how to deal with backlogged rent and mortgages (and the expected increase in homelessness & "couch surfing", how to move quickly and fairly through court backlog jams, how to best get our colleges and universities safely open and full, etc!</p> <p>In addition, please view and take action on these demands: COVID-19 is exposing the social, economic, and political crisis our communities have been bearing for decades and more. While this reality is distressing, we're also no strangers to organizing ourselves and our loved ones to make sure none of us get left behind.</p> <p>We, a broad coalition directly impacted people and organizations, are launching the North</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>Carolina People's Platform for Social and Economic Survival and Beyond. We call on the Governor and the North Carolina General Assembly to act on these demands:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Expand Medicaid, without impediments, and protect our hospitals. - Protect immigrants from being detained by ICE, and prioritize health for those in detention. - Protect incarcerated people, by releasing nonviolent offenders from vulnerable populations, halting pre-trial detention, and prioritizing health for those who are incarcerated. - Place a moratorium on all evictions, foreclosures, and utility shutoffs. - Freedom from hunger - Ensure paid sick days and family medical leave for all workers, and fix our broken unemployment system. - Put the health and welfare of working families and communities ahead of corporate handouts by requiring large employers to pay 2 weeks of sick leave and expand safety protections. - Increase the corporate tax rate by 5%. - Protect our democracy by eliminating restrictions on mail absentee voting, passing online voter registration, and expanding Census accommodations. - Expand access to government entities by accepting remote signatures and appearances.
04/15/2020 09:37 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Peter Larson	Do not re-open the state and lift the Governor's orders now! We are not safe until scientists like Dr. Fauci agree it is safe and advise the governors on how to do it. We have made so much progress under these orders against this pandemic - don't reverse it now!
04/15/2020 09:37 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sheila Richardson	Please allow mail-in voting!!!!
04/15/2020 09:37 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Renee Alsop	Please listen to the SCIENTISTS and EXPERTS in epidemiology. We must continue to isolate until testing, antibody testing, and a vaccine are widely available and accessible to ALL. Otherwise, we risk an increase in infection and death rate again.
04/15/2020 09:38 AM	Health Care Working Group	Jennifer Talley	Public health should be the most important thing to think about when deciding when to open up the economy. Lives are much more important than money. Please listen to the doctors and experts on viruses. Thank you.
04/15/2020 09:38 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Stef Mendell	<p>Please don't listen to uninformed people who seem to think the virus is a hoax and/or that the economy is more important than human lives.</p> <p>Please rely on science to make decisions about when and how to begin getting back to normal.</p>
04/15/2020 09:39 AM	Economic Support	STAY HOME Katelyn	Thank you for supporting and continuing the stay at home order. Your work is saving lives.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Working Group	Ehle	I know that I have immunocompromised family members who would put themselves at risk were it not for our stay at home order.
04/15/2020 09:39 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Laura LeFevre	Please continue stay at home orders until the time it is absolutely safe to relax them. I know it's a pain for many people but it isn't worth risking the lives of people in our state to try and jump the gun before it is safe to do so. Also, voting by mail is absolutely an option that should be put in place! Thank you!!
04/15/2020 09:42 AM	Health Care Working Group	Jennifer Fontaine	It is very clear from empirical Health Care Data, that we must use use this Health Data in deciding How, When, and what incremental steps should be taken to reopen our state . We MUST Not be so hasty and thoughtless that this Pandemic raises its ugly head in force again! Thank You from beautiful Southport!
04/15/2020 09:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Cindy Sinkez	Do not be too quick to open the floodgates. Please be prudent in reopening the State. We stay home to save lives. Don't blow it by a quick restart. Slow and steady wins the race.
04/15/2020 09:44 AM	Education Working Group	Donna Branham	Opening everything back up in NC too soon would be a death sentence to many people. Our numbers of positive Covid-19 tests and deaths continues to rise daily. Our state has not peaked yet! As much as I'd like to go back to living my life, I'm not willing to risk my health or the health of my love ones. "Stay at Home" is the only option right now!
04/15/2020 09:45 AM	Health Care Working Group	Rev Beth Woodard	Please keep the restrictions in place for as long as necessary! Don't succumb to pressure.
04/15/2020 09:45 AM	Economic Support Working Group	T Sanders	<p>To the powers that be, our state is not ready to re-open. The data on who's affected is INCORRECT if EVERYONE is NOT being tested. How can you consider re-opening when you don't know the correct amount of infected citizens? How can you consider re-opening when the numbers ARE still going UP? YES, we all need to get back to work and our daily lives but this virus is horrible. PLEASE look at what's happening in other countries and heavily impacted states.</p> <p>I beg you to please use our medical community and the science of this as a basis for deciding. Yes we need to work for the obvious of feeding and housing our families and also for the wider economic impact BUT people who are sick (or worse) CAN NOT work. People who are sick (or worse) can not spend. Business' CAN NOT operate without employees that are sick (or worse). Re-opening too soon WILL put our citizens at risk if you DON'T know the numbers and the numbers are still going up. Please make a concerted effort to KNOW before making the decision to re-open.</p> <p>Please and thank you from a concerned citizen who is a mother, wife, sister, aunt and daughter. Help us keep our family safe and healthy by being smart about when we should reopen.</p>
04/15/2020 09:46 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mary Adams	Please don't reopen the state and endanger my neighbors, students, family, and friends. I know you are getting a lot of pressure from a well-funded group that is willing to sacrifice

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			us all for prosperity. Knowing what we know, that would be tantamount to premeditated murder for thousands of us. I'm proud to be part of a state whose governor is not swayed by greed and superstition.
04/15/2020 09:46 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Katherine Heath	Thank you for the keeping us as safe as possible during this pandemic. Things are difficult. As I continually monitor the statistics, I notice that you have done an excellent job in keeping NC better than most. Please continue to listen to those who are experienced and educated in what we need to do.
04/15/2020 09:46 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Ben Kittner	There's a reason you're not having an in-person hearing. Please wait until public health experts and epidemiologists tell us it's safe to go out. Otherwise, legislators should go out first.
04/15/2020 09:47 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Sarah Noell	Please keep the stay-at-home order in place / don't open our economy backup until we have met certain conditions - the primary one being adequate and <i>*timely*</i> testing and results for people. We cannot take the chance the the virus will have a resurgence. We've gone this long - let's make sure we do the test of time. People's lives are at stake, and yes their livelihoods as well, but I for one, believe in healthy people first because that's what will grow our economy long term. Don't make foolhardy short-sighted decisions; we are in this for the long haul.
04/15/2020 09:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Vivian Moore	I urge the General Assembly to continue to follow the science to protect the people of NC, including social distancing guidelines and other actions by the Governor via Executive Order in response to the novel coronavirus pandemic. The people of NC value human life and health over economic health. I don't know a single person of any part of the political spectrum who would voluntarily sacrifice their mother's life to protect the economy. Keep our core values in mind as you determine the course forward.
04/15/2020 09:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lynn Fox	Please protect the people of NC by listening to the CDC and medical scientists regarding when to reopen our state. We are happy to stay at home to protect our citizens. As important is the need for vote by mail to provide safe voting opportunities for all North Carolinians. Thank you for doing the right thing for all.
04/15/2020 09:47 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Ann Cockrell	Many families need access to the Affordable Care Act. Those who have lost jobs should get Medicaid for the whole family.
04/15/2020 09:49 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Erin Byrd	Please ignore these Open NC people. I do not want to die because some citizens are unable to grasp the seriousness and are more worried about their pocket books than the lives of NC citizens. Please continue to focus on your due diligence. Please lead with the ethics and compassion and clarity that the people of this state deserve. I believe you will do what is best for the people and not corporate interests at this time.
04/15/2020 09:49 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Julie Bailey	THANK YOU, State of NC Legislators and Governor Roy Cooper for choosing to save lives during the current pandemic with the Stay-at-Home order. Yes, it's important for us to resume business and social operations as soon as possible, however, it's more important for precautionary measures to remain in place until science and rational thinking agree that it's safe for us to congregate again. I am in the high-risk category and cannot afford exposure to this deadly virus. Yes, shutting down things has caused some financial hardship but we have recovered from other financial hardships in my lifetime. I hope I will be alive to work on recovery from the current financial issues after we flatten the curve of

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			COVID-19 but if the state lifts the Stay-at-Home order too early, I fear that I and thousands of others won't get that chance. I am grateful for the Stay-at-Home order and urge you to extend it as long as necessary.
04/15/2020 09:50 AM	Health Care Working Group	Kathy Wheeler	4/15/2020. Please do not do anything to jeopardize the stay-at-home order and social distancing measures. Please let science, and only science, determine when it is time to relax mitigation efforts. It may hurt economically, but I'd rather people live and not die to save a business. We can get money, we can't get lives back.
04/15/2020 09:51 AM	Education Working Group	Mrs. Karen Moorefield	Please do not put my life on the line by sending me back into a classroom where I have no control over whom walks into my room carrying this virus, knowingly or unknowingly. I am the primary caregiver for two people over 70, both with serious health issues.
04/15/2020 09:51 AM	Health Care Working Group	Deborah Andrews	There is no doubt in my mind that the Stay at Home order is saving lives and preventing our health care systems from becoming overwhelmed. I'm 65 and have preexisting conditions, but I'm retired and can remain at home. My husband is 65 and has asthma. He does computer support for a bank, so has to go in every day. The only thing that makes it bearable is the very small number of people working onsite. If the stay order is lifted I'll be worried sick about him - and myself!
04/15/2020 09:51 AM	Health Care Working Group	Priscilla Morris	No reopening should occur until widespread testing and PPE are available for all. There should be enough available PPE TO USE IT AS IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN USED! One patient one use! When the scientific community recommends an opening back up that is when it should happen. When you are comfortable being in a room meeting people and listening to their comments in person. Maybe think about doing it then. I am a dental hygienist and proper & available PPE is a must. I cannot stay 6 feet away from a patient as most healthcare workers cannot. Opening too soon will cost too many lives. Not worth it!!
04/15/2020 09:51 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Sheila Connor	Holding elections by mail is asking for fraud and false results. There's absolutely no control. False ballots can be filed, mail can "disappear", and a myriad of other issues can take place. I would rather delay elections than allow voting by mail.
04/15/2020 09:52 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Ann Addison	To choose money over human lives is so typical of Republicans that it is almost laughable at this point. Rescinding stay at home orders so Jethro can reopen his lawnmower repair business with dead Carolinians as the collateral damage is abhorrent but so on brand for the NCGOP. Money over morals is the way of the GOP. To even THINK about rescinding the order now is absurd and wholly immoral.
04/15/2020 09:52 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ann Bingham	I'm writing to support the Stay At Home order. In the long run, our economy will be better if we have beaten the corona virus. It is short sighted to think the economy will be better off if more people die.
04/15/2020 09:52 AM	Health Care Working Group	--None-- LeElaine Comer	Over a million people in North Carolina are facing this pandemic with no health insurance whatsoever. For the love of God, please expand Medicaid.
04/15/2020 09:54 AM	Health Care Working Group	Extend stay-at-home order Heidi Huenemann	We cannot lift the stay-at-home order until we know who's been infected and who hasn't. Please extend the stay-at-home order until a reliable testing plan can be implemented.
04/15/2020 09:55 AM	Economic Support Working Group		As we all know that well-being of our population is the number priority during this pandemic, the risk for covid-19 is very small 1-2%. In contrast, the risk to 97% populations health, well-being, livelihoods, small businesses, children's future, etc... is extremely high.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			Please weigh these options when considering relaxing restrictions sooner (May 1st) rather than later in NC.
04/15/2020 09:56 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Melissa Tuttle	Please do NOT listen to the "push to reopen" people. If there's a massive wave of the illness, that will kill the economy as well as our health system. Of COURSE, we need to get back to daily life, but we also need to be intelligent and measured in that return, so that fewer lives are lost and the long-term impacts are less severe.
04/15/2020 09:57 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Cheryl Strother	We must keep N.C. in a stay at home status until the public health crisis is pass. Before opening many precautions should be in place including , readily available state wide validated testing for the virus and for antibodies (available to all and regardless of insurance, ability to pay etc)..., and PPE and sanitation procedures as needed in all business environments. Please follow the medical and scientific advice and do not re-open prematurely!
04/15/2020 09:58 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keep NC closed Heather Rompel	Thank you for your continued hard work on behalf of the safety of the people of the great start of North Caroline. Please continue your hard lockdown policy with a slow Renée try. As an RN I truly believe this is how we will save the most lives.
04/15/2020 10:00 AM	Health Care Working Group	Michelle Bennett	Please expand Medicaid by taking advantage of federal dollars to pay for it. It would unblock billions of dollars in federal funding to help us all fight COVID-19 and support economic recovery.
04/15/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Susan Lacy	Please continue the Stay at Home order until theres more testing, contact tracing and containment. Allow the antibody and saliva tests to verify those who should have immunity. Let this information be public. Slowly reopen with public health being the guide.
04/15/2020 10:01 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Priscilla Morris	The economy can recover. It has before and it will again. Do not lift regulations until the leading national/state heath agencies recommend and then do it how they say do it. We must have an ample supply of necessary infection control products before we can even have a chance of protecting ourselves, our loved ones or our neighbors. It's time to be truly Pro-Life and put lives before money!
04/15/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mayor Evan Cockerham	I would like to ask for support of whatever is deemed absolutely necessary by both State health officials and recommended by epidemiology experts with the CDC to continue to control the spread of COVID-19 in North Carolina. Instead of speaking in absolute terms of stay home or reopen, we should ask what restrictions may be lifted and when - and then we must stay the course. The last thing we want is for NC to become the next hot spot - and we are certainly not immune to that if we go for a blanket removal of all restrictions or a strictly voluntary approach as other states which are now hot spots have done. Issues of health and safety should be made by the experts in their respective fields and we should prioritize saving lives and protecting those on the front lines in our healthcare system above all else. What the American people need is a stated plan of how and when we will reopen. Please do not simply throw caution, and those most likely to die - to the wind. There is a balance to be struck between having a plan to reopen and protecting as many precious lives as possible. Please seek that balance in the post-partisan way that all emergency efforts should be approached. Thank you.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 10:02 AM	Health Care Working Group	Tara Lane	As a family, we appreciate the Stay At Home order and believe it should remain in place until such a time as there is sufficient PPE, workable tests for the virus and for its antibodies.
04/15/2020 10:05 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Susan Lacy	Considering there is not a vaccine or preventative treatment for Covid-19 and it will likely take 18 months to have any. Please put in place Mail in Ballots for NC citizens to keep them safe from this epidemic.
04/15/2020 10:05 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Janis Overlock	No, NC should not be opened yet. We need expanded testing and even better psa education. With the Open NC-ers running around without masks and without social distancing, they are also likely the ones who attended church services and had huge Easter dinners, we simply do not know what hell they have brought upon all of us in their haste. Wait and do things right. Human suffering to earn a few bucks is never worth it.
04/15/2020 10:07 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Rebecca Dresser	It is imperative to continue stay at home orders, as hard as that has been on all of us, until we have strong scientific evidence that the virus is no longer spreading in large degrees but instead diminishing and that the death rate is not increasing. What is the point of the economy getting back to normal when people are still transmitting the virus, becoming sick, being hospitalized, and dying? We must instead learn to plan for a new normal and adjust our way of life accordingly.
04/15/2020 10:08 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Owner Julie Thomas	Where is help for the thousands of sole proprietors who work full time and pay taxes to the State of NC and the Fed Gov.? Nothing but roadblocks and delays. I've tried to be patient and understanding but I've been dismissed, ignored, and pushed aside for bigger businesses. I've all but given up. I have spent entire days trying to fill out forms only to be told I have the wrong type of bank account. Where is THAT stipulation in the law? I have tax returns. I have bank records. I am an old established business with no other income options. Don't let us be forgotten! We make the economy run.
04/15/2020 10:08 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Derek Ellington	4 Weeks ago the courts closed and we had to send our workers home. It was the right decision. I started to put my 3 employees on unemployment, but the government said, "If you keep them on the payroll, we will help you." So I hung on. 3 weeks ago I got on a list with my bank. A week and a half ago I completed the paperwork. Last Wednesday, one week ago, I was told that all my paperwork was done and there was nothing more for me to do. Today I am cutting the last paychecks I can cover, and I do not have the funds to make the tax payments. The word from my bank is that they are waiting for approval. I have no idea when the funds are coming, I have no idea if the money will run out. If I don't get an answer by Friday, I have no choice but to lay them off. I have done my part, but my concern is that the government has not done their part. That said, all the suffering and expense, and deaths, means nothing if you rush to open things to early. It would be for nothing.
04/15/2020 10:11 AM	Health Care Working Group	We need rapid testing! Alesha Odell	Before we reopen our state we need to have access to rapid testing of Covid-19 that is readily available for any who suspects they have it so we can quickly isolate those who are contagious. Until this happens, a reopening will be short-lived and we'll be living in a cycle of shutdown, reopen indefinitely. We must be smart about this!
04/15/2020 10:14 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Paul Baerman	Please be very thoughtful, cautious, and conservative about re-opening the state for public gatherings!

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 10:14 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Christina Webb	I am an independent contractor operating under my own small business, working in the pharmaceutical industry. I have spent years working to develop and ensure new vaccines are safe and effective. I understand the seriousness of a pandemic and even though I have been personally burdened (I cannot work due to the stay at home orders), I am in full support of maintaining and even extending the existing stay at home orders in order to protect our vulnerable populations. I have parents who would both certainly die if they were to get Covid-19. While I understand the plight of others, I do not think it is safe for us to return to "normal" just yet. I do however support a controlled and responsible reopening of our state's economy. The government has made many resources available to small businesses to help in this unique time of need. I encourage our state government to provide more education/links/support to those pushing to reopen NC now to consider those resources as opposed to putting us all back at risk.
04/15/2020 10:17 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Jason Frye	I'm a small business owner - a freelance travel and food writer with 15 travel guides and thousands of articles to my name - and the current shutdown has been disastrous to my business. But we must hold strong. Do not ease the restrictions and guidelines and risk the health of me, my elderly in-laws, my immunocompromised friends, your parents, your children' grandparents, the aunts and uncles and vulnerable North Carolinians who look to you to keep them safe, healthy and secure every day of the year. We cannot prematurely reopen the state no matter what a very vocal micro-minority of people are telling you. To ignore the science and facts that health experts are telling us is to issue a death sentence to the aged and at-risk populations of North Carolina, to issue a death sentence to North Carolinians like me, and to issue a death sentence to your own political careers. Please, on behalf of every citizen of this state, don't cave to the pressure coming from Washington, where the interests appear to be purely economics-based and not at all sympathetic or empathetic to the citizenry, don't cave to pressure coming from less than 0.02% of our population to reopen the economy. Make the wise, health expert-guided decision and keep us closed until we have a vaccine, adequate testing resources, adequate PPE and hospital beds and a stockpile of both; until we have plans at state and local levels to care for and isolate the sick.
04/15/2020 10:17 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Shanti McKinnie	I support expanding Medicaid for as many as possible.
04/15/2020 10:17 AM	Health Care Working Group	Carol Jenkins	As the spouse of someone who works in a healthcare environment, I value a data/science-driven approach to reopening nonessential business so as to not overwhelm our local hospitals and further jeopardize our medical personnel working on the front lines and caring for our loved ones. Let the virus determine the timeline, not politicians or ill-informed activists. Sincerely, Carol Jenkins
04/15/2020 10:19 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Shanti McKinnie	I strongly support continuing, even strengthening, Stay Home Stay Safe orders.
04/15/2020 10:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Mary Fortunato	Please do NOT reopen the State of North Carolina until health care professionals and scientists tell us that it is ok to do so. Do NOT rush to reopen! Save lives! Stay home!

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04/15/2020 10:19 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Gayle Coyne	I am a home health RN in Hickory and surrounding areas many of which are rural. I am working on my BSN and have been studying the 2019 H-185 bill. The COVID 19 has shown a light on the importance of having all healthcare professionals be able to work at the full extent to which they are academically prepared. Rural patients would benefit from having APRNs facilitate care. The shortage of doctors and the economic burdens could definitely be lightened by moving forward with H- 185. I strongly urge you to explore this subject and consider giving more attention to H-185. I am hopeful we will move forward from the COVID19 pandemic but a residual need for more capable service providers in rural North Carolina needs to be addressed.
04/15/2020 10:20 AM	Health Care Working Group	Rev. Anne Bonnyman	Please vote to expand Medicaid to uninsured North Carolina residents. The funds are available and sorely needed throughout the state. By keeping uninsured people healthy, we can keep ourselves healthy. Please step up and be leaders in this. It could be the single most important and effective action of your legislative career.
04/15/2020 10:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ann Marie Baum	Please follow science and health directives versus political leanings for opening society back up. We must stay safe!
04/15/2020 10:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Shanti McKinnie	I strongly support giving voters expanded ability to Vote by Mail.
04/15/2020 10:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Brian Crawford	Dear Representatives: Please allow Mail-in Balloting to be one of the primary forms of Election methods. Also, please support Election Day as a State Holiday. Our votes count and matter. Only with full access and availability can the citizens speak and register their voices.
04/15/2020 10:22 AM	Education Working Group	Dr. Deborah Greene	I am extremely concerned about reopening too early. I am a middle school educator, and as much as I love my children and want to see them, they are germy and I am immune-compromised. My husband is considered "essential," and he works in a call center where they don't practice social distancing; nor do they provide masks or gloves. We are already risking ourselves in order to maintain his income. I don't want to risk my life because people are impatient and make decisions that are not based on science.
04/15/2020 10:24 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Rivenbark	We MUST re-open NC IMMEDIATELY! With precautions in place (social distancing, masks, gloves, etc) we MUST!!!! We do not have a choice if we are to survive economically and in every other way.
04/15/2020 10:25 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Ashley S Johnson	I know local businesses are hurting, but we have professionals who have made disease movement and containment their life's work. We need to listen to the public health officials so we don't end up with a second or third wave of the virus. We need massively expanded testing of people, and additionally, massive amounts of antibody testing to determine who has already been exposed or has already recovered. I assume (but do not know) that these

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 10:27 AM	Health Care Working Group	Rev Elizabeth Reynolds	<p>people are the backbone to any "restart" of local, state, and federal economy. Listen to our medical professionals; be generous to our small businesses and unemployed people.</p> <p>Please do not re-open NC prematurely!! Will none of you actually put human lives before money and profit? We need to give the medical community time to research this virus. We need to give manufacturers time to produce reliable tests. We need to give them time to produce enough PPE. Many of our people are dying, and we have a worse situation in the US than anywhere else in the world. Why? Because we value profit over people. We can change this, but only if you have the courage to act now to slow the spread and only re-open under much more restricted and regulated conditions. PLEASE protect the people of this state!</p>
04/15/2020 10:27 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Melissa Hassard	<p>The stay-at-home order needs to be extended until we have completely flattened the curve. Experts have stated that we will have wave after wave of this crisis until a vaccination is created. Be smart and do not be swayed by anyone who would put someone else in harm's way for profit.</p>
04/15/2020 10:28 AM	Health Care Working Group	Bethany Reeves	<p>Dear Representatives,</p> <p>I'm a lifelong resident of NC and a consistent voter. I live in Garner. My four year old, Naomi, received a life-saving heart transplant at Duke. She is completely immune suppressed to protect that organ. The ongoing stay-at-home guidelines are saving her life. The stay-at-home guidelines are saving tens of thousands of North Carolinian lives. Cancer patients, elderly people, people with transplants, and those with preexisting issues that make them vulnerable to this virus.</p> <p>North Carolinians value a data/science driven approach to reopening our state's economy. Neither protests nor political special interests should hold any sway in that decision.</p> <p>Please continue actions that prioritize saving Naomi's life, and other people's lives.</p> <p>Thank you for your time,</p> <p>Bethany Reeves</p>
04/15/2020 10:29 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Dani Hoffpauir	<p>I am so grateful for the stay at home order currently set in place and believe that it is of dire importance to continue to shelter in place until we are in the clear here in NC. Lives are at stake...Which are irreplaceable. People before product!</p>
04/15/2020 10:30 AM	Health Care Working Group	kim andreaus	<p>Please do NOT lift stay at home orders- despite the pressure to do so and the inconvenience, science is clearly showing it is saving lives!!!</p>
04/15/2020 10:30 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Garrett Heathcote	<p>Anyone who wants to stay home. Let them. Anyone who wants to wear a mask. Let them. Anyone who wants to work. Let them. Anyone who wants to protest. Let them. You have crossed a line and this will not stand.</p>
04/15/2020 10:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Michelle Hile	<p>Feel free to open up the state if you so desperately want it.</p> <p>Maybe I will get actual reflective representation if you all kill off your base.</p>
04/15/2020 10:32 AM	Education Working Group	Beverley Fisher	<p>I understand that we need to get the economy moving, but I don't think it should be at the risk of lives. Please do not succumb to the pressure of those that want to re-open N.C. too soon. This virus is dangerous and no one yet knows when they have been exposed and when they can transmit it to others. Pkk OK ease gave the appropriate measures in place and available before considering re-opening the state on even a small scale. We do not</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 10:33 AM	Education Working Group	Marsha Dunn	<p>want to have to start all over. Enough lives have been list with many more to come.</p> <p>As a high school educator and mother of a high school senior, I think we should be very cautious about opening too early just to stimulate the economy and for people to work again. My mother is a hair dresser with her own salon. She is also 71 as are most of her clients. Say, for example, I visited her salon and was infected without knowing it. I have now passed that along not only to my mother, but to all of her clients and their families as well. Do we want to take that risk with the health of those in our state? The logistics of reopening schools is a nightmare. Imagine trying to get kindergartners to social distance. Just the meal planning and cafeteria limits alone would be all but impossible. Do not make this more stressful to those on the front lines of education. Our students and educators are already stressed enough with the suddenness of moving from physical buildings to a computer or device at home. I personally would not want my son to go to school before this is well controlled and testing is widely available. Please do not give in to public pressure or the pockets of some of the members in your own general assembly.</p>
04/15/2020 10:35 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jodie Lones	As a healthcare professional I am very concerned about reopening too quickly. We must wait until we the infrastructure to support the level testing and contact tracing required to prevent mass spread. We must also have rules in place to help those unable to return to work due to health conditions and a continued limit of gatherings of large size. Decisions should be guided by the best minds in public health and led by NCDHHS.
04/15/2020 10:37 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Janet laing	Please keep stay at home orders in place until we have a clear plan and more testing to protect our state. Expand Medicaid and do what ever has to be done to help people without a paycheck but do not open before it is safe!
04/15/2020 10:39 AM	Education Working Group	MS Laura Chappell	Please continue the stay at home ordinance as long as possible. We need this time to keep our health care workers, front line response teams, children, senior citizens and critically ill people safe. We are not in normal times nor should people pretend and propose that we should resume business as usual. This is a deadly virus that our scientists need time to research for a cure, or at least a vaccine and the necessary medications to fight it. Please, do not life the ban just to mollify people . This is not the time to socialize but the time to keep lives safe. Safe at home means less lives at risk in North Carolina.
04/15/2020 10:40 AM	Health Care Working Group	Tim Murphy	I fully support the current social distancing measures put in place by Gov. Cooper and Dr. Cohen. They have helped flatten the curve and have saved lives. I oppose prematurely lifting the measures.
04/15/2020 10:41 AM	Health Care Working Group	Chief-Retired John Comparetto	There is a move in NC to open up. I understand the economic need for this. However, if there is a controlled opening I believe there should be requirements kept in place such as masks & gloves for employees and for customers (obviously customers in restaurants would be exempt). Fortunately, Brunswick County has had minimal cases and I would like that to continue. Tough decision you have to make.
04/15/2020 10:44 AM	Health Care Working Group	Gail Cormier	<p>We all want to get back to normal. We need to wait it out to at least June. Please, we can not force a reopen too early.</p> <p>We will kill ourselves and our loved ones if greed is looked upon as more important than life. Not until a reasonable plan has been crafted that will keep the curve down and help</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			keep a "second round" that is worse than the first from happening. Testing, testing, testing is needed as well. Lives matter.
04/15/2020 10:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Robert Ringle	I am counting on the State NOT to relax restrictions on social distancing, open non-essential businesses, and relax other health guidelines UNTIL there is widespread testing, and both data and facts to substantiate such a move. I understand that an out-of-State group is encouraging people to flood this site with comments supporting the reopening of the State. Do NOT be misled. This is not what the majority of North Carolinians desire!
04/15/2020 10:47 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Jessica Tuttle	Thank you for your service for all of us. Please stick to the scientific evidence and reliable facts from the proper officials sources , both locally and globally, when making the decisions for North Carolina.
04/15/2020 10:48 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ayla King	Please keep NC CLOSED until it is safe to reopen. The loss of life will be far worse for our economy than closing for a few months. Please listen to the experts and follow the scientific consensus.
04/15/2020 10:48 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Jessica Tuttle	Thank you for your service for all of us. Please stick to the scientific evidence and reliable facts from the proper sources , both locally and globally, when making the decisions for North Carolina.
04/15/2020 10:49 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Covid-19 Jennifer Duke	The only way to reopen the state is by doing the proper testing. Otherwise, you are risking the health of your constituents. It's important to be methodical during these times.
04/15/2020 10:49 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Shelia Butts	As a retired career state education employee as well as 66 year old with health issues, I respectfully request that the Govenor and members of the Legislature do not act in haste to lift the current "Stay Home" orders. Until we see more flattening of the curve with regard to less cases of Covid happening in NC, I believe it would be a tremendous mistake to even consider sending workers back into their places of business. Right now we have the potential to lower the numbers if we hold fast till May 1st.
04/15/2020 10:50 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Pam King	We all want NC to be up and running as soon as possible. This situation is so hard on people. However, reopening too soon, that is before the virus crisis has subsided, is a terrible idea. Please advise people to stay home until health care professions give the ok to reopen.
04/15/2020 10:51 AM	Health Care Working Group		Please continue to protect our religious and medical freedom by leaving religious exemptions to vaccinations in place.
04/15/2020 10:51 AM	Health Care Working Group	Social worker Leanne Ritter	We need to keep stay at home orders in place until the curve starts to decrease. We need to expand Medicaid especially in the time of Covid19
04/15/2020 10:54 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keep N.C. safe and closed Bonnie MacDougall	Please do not lift the stay at home orders. Listen to public health experts, medical professionals, and scientists to follow the best guidelines for saving lives, not overwhelming our health care system and overall well being of ALL of N.C. residents. While this may result in a longer shut down period it will be beneficial to all (including business) in the long term. Please put people's lives before material things.
04/15/2020 10:54 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Mrs Kirstin Boothman	You need to protect public health and keep stay-at-home orders in place (if not extend them), because without the public's health, there is no economy. That's how things actually work.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Public Safety) Working Group		
04/15/2020 10:55 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Cindy Goodspeed	I strongly feel that the recommendations made by the WHO should be the ones followed before the cessation of any "stay home" orders. The health and welfare of NC citizens should always be the FIRST consideration of this assembly.
04/15/2020 11:00 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Jennifer Oldham	Work with health officials on responsible reopening and help those directly who have lost their jobs and businesses. Try to become as self -sufficient as possible from the Federal Government. They appear unstable and irresponsible. Mandate local hospital systems offer health insurance to their communities, like how FirstHealth of the Carolinas did until we have universal healthcare. Invest heavily in schools. Use this as a time to create the world we want to live in. Thank you for your service.
04/15/2020 11:04 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Vivian Fulk	Keep the shelter in place order please. Flattening the curve is working. Follow science. Please. Do something to encourage people. But please keep the shelter in place order going until it is safe.
04/15/2020 11:04 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Stay at home order Denise Rhodes	We need to protect public health and keep stay-at-home orders in place (if not extend them), because without the public's health, there is no economy. That's how things work
04/15/2020 11:06 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Kay Knowles	We need to not jump to reopening businesses to early and put more of us in jeopardy spreading the virus to more of us. I realize businesses want to reopen but it's not worth lives being lost as a result of opening too soon
04/15/2020 11:08 AM	Education Working Group	Jan Pittman	Listen to the epidemiologists and let them take the lead on this one. Stay closed for now.
04/15/2020 11:10 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Nancy White	I want to express my strong support for the manner in which our governor has handled the Covid 19 situation. NC is showing courage and leadership in a time when it really matters.
04/15/2020 11:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs JEAN BERRIER-TATE	I want to thank the Governor and city/county leaders in NC for the quick actions that I believe have minimized the loss of life and overwhelming the healthcare system in our state. While social distancing by shutting down non-essential services is economically painful for our state and country, it is the only weapon we have at this time against this terrible virus. I realize there is organized opposition to this strategy and a lot of pushback to elected representatives, particularly in parts of the state with minimal cases at this time. I urge you to proceed with caution and with the well-being of all North Carolinians at the forefront of your decision-making. We certainly do not want to have endured the pain of this shutdown, only to reopen too early and have it all been for naught. Also, please consider expanding Medicaid as our state needs all the help it can get to fight this pandemic and we already paying for it, so our citizens should benefit.
04/15/2020 11:14 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Wayne Abraham	It is important that we stay at home until NC has the means to do mass testing. There is no point in reopening everything only to have to shut it down again because we have a huge spike in infections from COVID 19. We need to follow the South Korean model.
04/15/2020 11:15 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mrs. Kelly Rudisill	Please rely on the learned, expert advice of doctors and scientists. The health and safety of everyone in our communities depends on your leadership. Political agendas should not guide decisions.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
04/15/2020 11:15 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Do not reopen NC Jack Brannan	Although we have seen our State do well at handling this virus that does not mean it is over. Our healthcare systems are still fighting it everyday, make their job harder and we will have hospitals with no room to treat people. Be smart and save lives, our economy will grow back, it always has. North Carolina is strong, don't kill her trying to appease people who are too stubborn to stay indoors for a few months
04/15/2020 11:16 AM	Health Care Working Group	Janice Tulloss	Lifting the stay-at-home orders for NC would be premature and dangerous, especially to the most vulnerable citizens. Forcing people back to work who don't have the ability to work from home is putting their lives in danger for the convenience of a few. We see around the country and around the world the efficacy of social distancing and shelter-in-place policies in "flattening the curve." We need to stay the course rather than give up and make things worse. We don't need to trade short-term convenience for those who want to go to bars or their hairdresser or the mall for the long term devastation of our economy. Those pushing for "re-opening the economy" are those that have the luxury of staying at home or working remotely while their employees are forced to risk their lives to generate income for others. We have the ability to provide financial support to those who need it through things like unemployment and other payments, payments which will continue to stimulate the economy as people buy critical supplies or even shop online. We need to expand Medicaid so people aren't bankrupted by illness and more rural hospitals aren't forced to close and be unable to care for those who are either victims of Covid-19 or other illness. We need to prioritize support for the citizens over tax cuts for the wealthiest and the release from boredom of those urging an end to the restrictions. The NC legislature needs to show leadership in this time of crisis and show what their priorities are. The economy will survive, the citizens may not.
04/15/2020 11:17 AM	Education Working Group	Ms. Erin Edwards	I heartily recommend that until there is a vaccine or effective treatments available that educators and students not return to school. My child and myself are in the highest risk groups. There is no way to socially distance in the school setting.. Please consider safety of staff and students when making decisions about when to return to school. I much prefer to be in the classroom, but we must be safe. Thank you for your consideration.
04/15/2020 11:21 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Stay home NC Jennifer Riley	I firmly believe the stay at home order should remain in place until its original end date at minimum. However, to better protect the citizens of our state, I am asking that it be extended until mid-May or early June or until health officials and scientific data deem it safe.
04/15/2020 11:23 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mary Lightfoot	I am all for re-opening public trails and parks. Maybe a beach opening with walkers only. I would welcome voting by mail
04/15/2020 11:25 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mother, Daughter, Sister, April Adams	I have recently found out that a group of NC citizens have decided to endanger the population and are demanding NC to reopen. This is an extremely bad idea pushed by conspiracy and denial that I'm hoping isn't going to put my family and friend in danger. My father is a heart patient, my mother is a diabetic and my daughter is school aged. Their safety and health is why I support the closure. I can't justify putting their life in danger by bringing a virus from my job in retail to our home. My job has had policy changes put in place to protect the majority if it's employees and I'm currently off the schedule. I'll make due until I can return because my families health is important me. I can't fathom the idea

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			of sending my daughter back to school prematurely. Protect the citizen of this state and remain closed until its deemed safe to reopen and not because protestors demand it.
04/15/2020 11:26 AM	Health Care Working Group	Karen Long	I support Medicaid expansion to previously uninsured and people who lost health insurance because they lost their jobs to the COVID 19 pandemic. Medicaid expansion will also help small hospitals and hopefully prevent them from closing down the road. This seems like a no brainer to me.
04/15/2020 11:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Virginia Maier	I'm concerned about lifting the stay-at-home order before we have the covid19 virus under control. Please hold firm on the commitment to follow scientific evidence and the recommendations of experts.
04/15/2020 11:28 AM	Health Care Working Group	Heather Yow	I vehemently oppose the continued destruction of NC's economy by this unconstitutional lock down. I also oppose any plan to make a covid vaccine mandatory.
04/15/2020 11:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Karen Long	I support providing paid sick days, family leave and full unemployment benefits for all who labor, include those in the "gig" economy and small business such as nail salons. Because of earlier cuts to unemployment the State is sitting on a pile of money needed now to prevent a catastrophic depression.
04/15/2020 11:31 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Health and Safety First Charlotte Stewart	It is critical that NC stay at home until the pandemic danger subsides. I trust our scientists, doctors and public health policy experts to ascertain a safe time to reopen. I do not trust interest groups financed by out-of-State individuals who just want to make money regardless of risk to our people. In the meantime, we can mitigate financial harm by increasing unemployment coverage, funding food banks, expanding rural broadband and expanding Medicaid so rural and small hospitals can reopen and stay solvent while serving all of NC's people. We should also encourage secure vote by mail so that we don't create a surge of new infections or put our poll workers and volunteers at risk in the fall.
04/15/2020 11:32 AM	Economic Support Working Group	JENNIFER GRESSER	EXPAND Medicaid for all children 0-18
04/15/2020 11:34 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Long	I support making voting by mail more accessible by making it easier to vote by mail, by providing pre paid envelopes in which to vote and by publicizing the ability to vote by mail. Voting is fundamental to a democracy. The latest horror in Wisconsin should not be allowed here. People ought not to have to risk their health and safety to perform such a fundamental act.
04/15/2020 11:35 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Karen Holmes	Stay home, stay safe, wear masks! If you choose to not want to abide by these orders you should be quarantined, sign away your rights to health care then your group can do whatever they want in your quarantined area. I absolutely will not support any businesses that do not respect the health and well being of our communities!
04/15/2020 11:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Janet McDougal	The governor should not have the power to keep North Carolina shut down and take away our liberties. We the people are responsible for our health, not the governor. It is time to open up North Carolina.
04/15/2020 11:37 AM	Health Care Working	Ms Mary Goodkind	Please expand Medicaid now! I want my federal and state tax dollars spent in my state.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		Everyone deserves healthcare. Especially now and especially with the vulnerabilities so apparent of our minority citizens weakened by the long-term effects of poverty and systemic racism. All races and all levels of society deserve health care. Covering everyone will make all of us safer, healthier, and more prosperous.
04/15/2020 11:38 AM	Health Care Working Group	Candace Ayers	I am begging you all to continue the stay home order through the month of May. I understand the economic impact, however, human lives matter more than money. This virus is going to skyrocket if we reopen on May 1st. Thank you.
04/15/2020 11:39 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Candace Ayers	I am begging you to extend the stay home order through the month of May. Yes, economic impact is important, but human lives should matter way more than the almighty dollar. The virus will skyrocket if we reopen on May 1st. Thank you.
04/15/2020 11:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Michael Atwood	I am all for reopening NC for business but we also need to reopen NC for our kids, they are also the ones suffering as much as anyone, their lives are turned upside down. From those in elementary school thru college, this is the most criminal thing I have ever seen to take away their youth and education not based on a health crisis but on a lunatic socialist activist Governor and administration. I am so sick of people stopping in cars and taking pictures of my daughter practicing the sport she loves because they feel this isn't staying home. Do something to stop this madness and let us live our lives, we are Americans and can take our own personal responsibility for our actions and lives. The Governor has damaged the state beyond imagination in weeks and is the biggest threat to our way of life with his emergency authority. End this Now!
04/15/2020 11:49 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Cathy Nieman	Many NC citizens are in dire straits. It's absolutely time to expand Medicaid NOW!
04/15/2020 11:50 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Pam Currie	Please continue to keep us safe with the stay- at-home mandates currently in place. Lift these mandates only after we are sure the virus has run its course.
04/15/2020 11:51 AM	Education Working Group	Cheryl Blankenship	It is important to continue to shelter in place to prevent the spread of the Coronavirus. There are many vulnerable citizens, particularly seniors, who must be protected
04/15/2020 11:51 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Lynn Anderson	<p>Tell them NC should:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend voting rules to give the NC Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies such as: pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, etc. 2. Make absentee voting easier by making ballots easier to obtain, and open to everyone eligible to vote. An on-line portal should be available to apply for an absentee ballot. Two witnesses during social distancing is unsafe and unrealistic especially for single, older people. 3. Make voter registration available on line. (You can now register to vote or update your voter registration address or party affiliation on line via the NC Division of Motor Vehicles if you are a DMV customer.) 4. Assume the costs for mailing in an absentee ballot.
04/15/2020 11:55 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Extend Stay At Home Order Adrienne Mattson-Perdue	I don't want to die because someone feels like their bottom line is more important than flattening the curve, and that is exactly what would happen if the state reopens too soon. I am a resident of this state. Please put my safety first. Without workers, there is no

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			economy to protect.
04/15/2020 11:55 AM	Education Working Group	Annette Sheppard	Continue the stay at home order.
04/15/2020 11:59 AM	Health Care Working Group	sylvia pardo	required negative test for ALL workers prior to re entry
04/15/2020 12:03 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Stephanie Pierce	As the disable mother of a restaurant server, who's out of work, due to her job closing because of the orders. We are struggling but we prefer it, over being sick. While we have medical insurance, we prefer healthy. Yes, we agree with the order. Also, we agree with a staggering re-opening after health officials, gives the re-opening, all clear. If some North Carolinians are suffering. There's resources available to help them. If they're bored, that's not a reason to reopen the state for a very limited few, who can't entertain themselves
04/15/2020 12:09 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Regina Smardon	If you send the public school students back to school before testing and contact tracing is in place, I will keep my daughter home.
04/15/2020 12:10 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Lynn Maust	I support Gov. Coopers Stay At Home orders to continue to protect the community at large.
04/15/2020 12:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Christina Lockhart	Please listen to experts regarding the pandemic & keep NC's Stay At Home order in place & extend as per advice from scientists & medical experts. Please do not cave in to uninformed public pressure to re open NC & cause a surge in Covid19 infections that will overwhelm hospitals & further injure our citizens & economy.
04/15/2020 12:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Dana Minton	With all of the hype you're hearing from the "Reopen NC" folks, Please hear and follow the recommendations of the scientists who are leading the charge on what actions are in the overall best interest of our State in the midst of this vast spreading, deadly Covid 19 disease. Yes, economically, we will suffer, but without our lives, there will be no economy. Please stand strong and firm and continue to hold our State responsible for doing everything we can to contain this killer. For those who do not choose to comply, they should be arrested in order to prevent risk to those of us and our families who are!!!
04/15/2020 12:16 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ronald Powell	We need to find a way to rapidly re-open the economy of North Carolina. Government assistance is too little, and too slow in delivery to effectively help small businesses survive. The COVID risk does not warrant the "stay at home" response for a longer duration. Re-start our businesses now, and making smarter decisions on addressing only high-risk citizens.
04/15/2020 12:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Charles Ward	I strongly urge you to ignore the uninformed partisan protesters who are pushing to re-open the state without regard to the impact such an action would have on the public health. I stand With Gov. Cooper and greatly appreciate his efforts to keep us safe by controlling the virus through social distancing. I hope that you will leave the social distancing measures in place as long as necessary to control the spread of Covid-19.
04/15/2020 12:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Jeff Rabon	North Carolina State can NEVER issue a mandate for ANY kind of COMPULSORY medical treatment, including mandatory vaccination. To do so would violate all sense of liberty and individual autonomy. Such an act is also considered a War Crime per the

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>International Nuremberg Code. Citizens will defend our rights to liberty and autonomy with whatever amount of force necessary. Such opposition to mandated medical treatments is in alignment with the United States Constitution and the Declaration of Independence. No vaccination of any kind is recommended or necessary as a treatment for COVID-19 is already available in the form of Hydroxychloroquine. Hydroxychloroquine is an effective medical treatment that has been approved for medical use for over 6 decades. If any NC law is created that mandates a vaccine for citizens that law is null and void:</p> <p>" All laws repugnant to the constitution are null and void"</p> <p>Marbury / Madison 1803</p>
04/15/2020 12:20 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Janis Henderson	Please use facts and data from your health and safety experts to determine when to lift the stay at home ban. Please do not reopen schools until we have widespread testing available to ensure that teachers, staff and students are not asymptomatic carriers.
04/15/2020 12:23 PM	Health Care Working Group	Lieutenant Command Robert Gotwals	Under no circumstances should stay-at-home be lifted until we are much farther down the road. I absolutely understand the challenges this places on all of us, but the death count will surely rise -- based on almost every epidemiological model out there -- if we relax the restrictions.
04/15/2020 12:23 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. David Norris	<p>Stay the Course; Maintain the Stay at Home Order</p> <p>We must not "reopen" North Carolina without careful consideration. We need vaster capacity for testing for COVID-19, and for tracing people who may have been exposed to those who tested positive. Opening should be done only with careful consideration of local conditions, county by county. Final decisions should be up to health experts and professionals, not the business or political community. We absolutely MUST NOT risk overwhelming our limited hospital space and medical personnel.</p> <p>Perhaps some limited relaxation of the rules may be feasible in a couple of months. It may be that the more vulnerable population (older, those who are immune-compromised or otherwise at high risk) should remain at home while others may get back to work while maintaining some social distancing. Masks, hand-washing, and frequent disinfecting will be necessary for a good while.</p>
04/15/2020 12:24 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Maryann Debski	It's time to release the Covid data by Zip Code so that we know what is going on. For the Voters health and safety. For work, groceries, school. For businesses and employers. For local municipalities. For Hospitals and doctors. Please have the Department of Health and Human Services release the data. Thank you.
04/15/2020 12:25 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Cinnamon Frame	It is essential that the Governor's stay at home orders be supported by the state legislature. Now is not the time to play politics. Listen to the health care experts and keep the stay at home mandate in place until widespread antibody testing can occur. Please do not give in to a bunch of conspiracy theorists and open too early. Thousands will die if we open too early.
04/15/2020 12:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Maryann Debski	It's time to release the Covid data by Zip Code so that we know what is going on. For the Voters health and safety. For work, groceries, school. For businesses and employers. For local municipalities. For Hospitals and doctors. Please have the Department of Health and Human Services release the data. Thank you.
04/15/2020 12:27 PM	Economic Support	mr brett sculthorp	The NC General Assembly has the power to cut the number of uninsured in half

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Working Group		<p>immediately, using federal funding. Expanding Medicaid now will bolster our health systems and families against this pandemic, and create a path towards economic recovery when this crisis is over. Also i support these two policies - NC Child's 2020 legislative agenda focused on five major areas to help kids come through the COVID-19 pandemic: Child Care, Health Care, Hunger and Nutrition, Technology Infrastructure, and Foster Care.</p> <p>NC United for Survival and Beyond's 10 demands of the NC General Assembly and Governor to respond to the most vulnerable communities during COVID-19 and beyond.</p>
04/15/2020 12:27 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Caroline Miller	<p>I own a small business. A nail salon. I operate in one room with one client at a time and have always adhered to required sanitation standards. When can I expect to resume my business?</p> <p>I have received no stimulus check.</p> <p>No unemployment and no help from SBA.</p> <p>I have had no income for 3 weeks now.</p> <p>There are retail stores open in my area servicing more than one person at a time, there are grocery stores accomodating more than one person at a time.</p> <p>Why can I not open my business back up when I can adhere to the guidelines even more so than some businesses that are still in operation?</p> <p>These guidelines and rules are destroying my business and yet others continue to operate daily with no penalties whatsoever.</p> <p>I want to get back to work and I want to open my business!</p> <p>If it's ok for clothing retail stores to be open with more than 2 people at a time in the store please explain to me why I cannot open my business when it is only myself and one other person in the room at a time?</p>
04/15/2020 12:28 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Jeff Rabon	<p>Open NC Now. There is simply no need for any type of business to be closed. The danger of COVID-19 has been HIGHLY over inflated by the fake news media. The regular seasonal flu is much more dangerous than COVID-19 and there is simply no reason to have an economic recession over this. The econonic impairment that is being imposed has a MUCH WORSE DELETERIOUS EFFECT on citizens than does COVID-19.</p>
04/15/2020 12:30 PM	Education Working Group	Mr Jeff Rabon	<p>We need education vouchers. Let parents spend money on their children's education the way they deem fit. Market competition will vie for access to those vouchers in the way that a true free market economy is supposed to operate. We don't need state run education.</p>
04/15/2020 12:31 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Citizen Michael Dunn	<p>Hello:</p> <p>As a citizen of North Carolina and resident of Carteret County, I am supportive of reopening our economy consistent with WHO guidelines that include wide spread testing, isolation of infected individuals and contact tracing. At this point, I do not believe we are anywhere close to meeting The WHO guidelines, nor have I received assurances from my elected officials that they have any concrete plan to achieve this state, at this time.</p>
04/15/2020 12:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Faye Hayes	<p>Because a large part of our state (western and eastern shores) are resort and destination spots, please wait to re-open until there are ways to easily test for the virus. Leave the social distancing procedures in place and enforce them! Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 12:35 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Kari Wouk	Please work hard to guarantee all North Carolinians get to do mail-in voting in November! Maintaining our democracy is of paramount importance.
04/15/2020 12:37 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Kari Wouk	Please listen to science and facts when considering lifting the quarantine. There are many people I love who are at-risk and we MUST work to keep people safe. Stay home and save lives!
04/15/2020 12:39 PM	Education Working Group	Ms. Sarah Gulley	Epidemiologists say that the way that we know that we have succeeded is that people will start to think that we overreacted. Governor Cooper's initiatives have been working. Please let them continue. I say this as a teacher who is absolutely struggling with distance learning, knowing that I am not serving all of my students' needs at this time (to say nothing of my own children who are also home with us right now since daycare is closed). But this is a matter of medical urgency--I am not willing to sacrifice lives (either of those whom I know and love or those whom I don't know) for the sake of the economy. I am especially unwilling to sacrifice the lives and well-beings of medical professionals, janitors, grocery clerks, and all other essential employees, as if their deaths and hospitalizations won't hurt the economy. There is no getting back to normal from here, but working together we can show that we are able to build something together.
04/15/2020 12:44 PM	Health Care Working Group	Scott Campbell	Do not open the economy until we have a plan IN PLACE to monitor the covid 19 virus and where it is and where it is not. The history of pandemics in the past show how these difficult measures now can stop a more widespread and potentially devastating catastrophe.
04/15/2020 12:44 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Laura Porter	Please expand Medicaid. 1 in 10 adults in NC are facing a pandemic with no health coverage. Many of NC's uninsured are working on the front lines of COVID-19 – in places like child care, food service, and nursing homes. Expanding Medicaid would unlock billions in federal funding to support our struggling health care systems. It would also cut the high number of uninsured people in our state in half. 37 other states have taken the federal funding to expand Medicaid. They are experiencing better health outcomes and positive fiscal impact. And it's the right thing to do for the people of NC
04/15/2020 12:44 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Leslie Hagarty	please continue social distancing and expand it. Lives over economy. Anything else is unacceptable. Medicaid expansion NOW! Pass a damn budget.
04/15/2020 12:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Do NOT re-open NC Samantha Worrell	I am writing to request that the health and well-being of N.C. residents be put before profit. We need to keep up with the measures put in place by the governor to keep us safe until it is appropriate to begin opening businesses back up. I understand there is a group of people who disagree but they are not scientist or doctors working on this pandemic, we need to listen to the professionals. Please keep us as safe as possible and tell people to continue to stay home and social distance. Thank You
04/15/2020 12:49 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Miriam Thompson	As the COVID-19 pandemic is impacting our most vulnerable neighbors, I am pleading with the House Select Committee on Covid -19 and the General Assembly to pass Medicaid expansion at a time when too many of our residents are dying because of lack of healthcare, that makes them especially vulnerable to the virus. My family friends and I call upon you to follow your faith in the moral code we share.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 12:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Beth Blanchard	<p>I realize that our economy is suffering but we need to be wise in returning things back to normal. I fear that when businesses open back up people will not be as careful. Maybe stricter stipulations to help guide, such as must have mask in stores etc. like we have for the essential stores now.</p> <p>I also do not want to have medical mandates, I think it should be a persons right to decide if they want a vaccine or not. I strongly believe you need to be a self-advocate for your own health. I personally research conditions, medicines, etc. through reputable medical resources and researchers and try to decide what is in the overall best interest for myself rather than what is sometimes recommended by medical professionals who are persuaded by pharmaceutical companies. I feel that medical professionals should be taking the time to find the root cause of the problem and address it. For the people that do not educate themselves then they can continue to take the routine advice given by the medical profession and nothing would be different; otherwise mandates only affect the population that are trying to address root causes rather than just adding medicine to cover the problem.</p> <p>I do not believe we should have mail in ballots. We have to identify ourself in person now verbally when we go to vote, why would you send a ballot out so that anyone could fill it out. Common sense tells us that this would open up an easy way for fraudulent votes. Thank you for the work you are doing to keep us safe.</p>
04/15/2020 12:50 PM	Health Care Working Group	39 year citizen of NC Victoria Robertson	You can achieve so much by attending to the suggestions of " demands of NC People's Platform for Social and Economic Survival And Beyond Us. There are 10 achievable points
04/15/2020 12:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Dana Dalton	NC can only re-open when frequent testing is available to employers free of charge. This is the ONLY viable means to contain the virus. Sick and infected workers must be isolated and given paid sick leave.
04/15/2020 12:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	NC citizen Victoria Robertson	<p>Look at demands of NC People's Platform for Social and Economic Survival and Beyond Us.</p> <p>10 points that can be achieved by you.</p>
04/15/2020 12:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. William Bush	<p>I encourage you to give plenty of cash support to the regular working people, the ones at the grocery store, the pharmacy clerks, tellers at banks working those vacuum remotes, medical and nursing home staff. We all know that our money is a symbolic construct, and that we can print all we need for a while and slowly suck it out of circulation later on. It does not have to matter. What does matter is that my wife is away tending her sister who has a broken leg, and I am home with our handicapped son. We cannot get sick. I do errands for a wheel-chair-using neighbor. Who will replace us? We are retired and have income, so we are OK. But the people whose jobs have stopped NEED support, and they need it far more than CEOs and millionaires. Those stimulus checks should have gone to people who were under \$50,000 per year or currently unemployed, and should be guaranteed to arrive for the next 4 months. We need to make it possible for people to stay in self-isolation to break the back of this pandemic. There is a "Re-open" movement now afoot, led by the lie of constitutional rights being violated. The movement will, if successful, result in a resurgence of Covid-19, many more deaths, a renewal of isolation</p>

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			from the beginning, and more ill will among the disaffected. Certainly many of our lives are of little to no value to these people. I know. I have read their posts. Please support the lives of your constituents before you focus on their livelihoods.
04/15/2020 12:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Dana Dalton	All elections going forward should have the option of mail in and early voting sites must be increased along with the length of the early voting timeframe.
04/15/2020 12:54 PM	Education Working Group	Citizen NC Victoria Robertson	Please pay attention to the demands of NC People's Platform for Social and Economic Survival and Beyond Us. 198 organizations
04/15/2020 12:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Michael Capobianco	Please cover the uninsured in our state by expanding Medicaid. North Carolina is missing out on billions in federal health care dollars.
04/15/2020 01:00 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Tamiko McSwain	Please maintain or extend the current stay-at-home orders. We can not let up on this until there is a vaccine. We must keep the number of COVID-19 patients to a minimum to avoid overwhelming our healthcare system.
04/15/2020 01:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Anthony Gagnon	We are all anxious to get back to work and start rebuilding in the wake of this worldwide crisis, but lifting stay at home orders and re-opening businesses prematurely will, in my estimation, be disastrous, and nullify the sacrifices we have all made in the interest of public health and safety. We need reliable and universally available testing to ensure that we can identify and quarantine infected individuals , and we need better information on whether the presence of antibodies offers protection from being re-infected, so that we can feel safe and confident in resuming our public lives.
04/15/2020 01:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Kathi Beratan	It is highly likely that some travel and gathering restrictions related to COVID-19 will still be in place in November. I strongly recommend immediate action to enable registered voters to vote by mail using pre-paid mail-in ballots. Vote by Mail has been proven to be just as secure as in-person and absentee voting, and is relatively inexpensive to enact. Pre-paid mail-in ballots will encourage vote-by-mail thus making voting during a pandemic MUCH safer for both voters and poll workers. This type of voting does NOT favor one party over another as it makes it easier and safer for everyone to vote - old or young, urban or rural, conservative or liberal. Please act responsibly and take steps now to allow for a safe and secure election in November. Help all of North Carolina's registered voters exercise their fundamental right to vote.
04/15/2020 01:06 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Ron Katz	The health care of all in our state is essential. Never has that been more evident than with this pandemic. Our legislative leaders need to understand that health care is not a privilege but a necessity for all. The poor health of some affects the health of all with rising health care costs and now increasing the chance the pandemic will spread. The rationale for not expanding Medicaid has been based on misstatements. It is past time to recognize that our leaders are here to help those who are most needy by accepting the federal dollars to do the expansion. The result will be a healthier populace, economy and government.
04/15/2020 01:13 PM	Education Working Group	Mrs Lucy Rodriguez	Please don't reopen NC until is safe , have enough testing and be able to isolate cases. We trust you Governor Cooper, you have don't better than many
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	Group		trust you Governor Cooper, you have don't better than many
04/15/2020 01:13 PM	Health Care Working Group	Catherine Marie	Please cover the uninsured in our state by expanding Medicaid. North Carolina is missing out on billions in federal health care dollars.
04/15/2020 01:18 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Melissa Johnson	If we do not finally finally expand Medicaid during this terrible time, with so many people at high risk and unemployed without health insurance, we do not deserve to call ourselves Christian or however we define being a good and decent human being. We are letting people of all ages, from infants and pregnant women to our aging parents, face a much greater risk of DEATH without this simple and efficient move.
04/15/2020 01:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Tom Helms	Why has the COVID-19 not at least been modified to allow all businesses reopen with the same restrictions as other businesses? Without the tax base small businesses represent the entire state economy will soon be crippled irreparably if these businesses close. What good will being locked in your home in a state that is flat broke?
04/15/2020 01:26 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Marybeth Lavrakas	I am disheartened to see some fellow citizens mobilize in support of lifting business restrictions at this time. I agree things need to be eased as soon as possible, but POSSIBLE needs to be determined by public health officials. This virus will only spread faster and endanger more lives if we do not maintain restrictions through April--and longer if needed.
04/15/2020 01:27 PM	Health Care Working Group	don't reopen too soon Patricia Guthrie	Please do not reopen the state of NC too soon. It could have devastating consequences for all of us. Please stay the course and do not reopen the state until this threat has been brought under control.
04/15/2020 01:31 PM	Health Care Working Group	Keep it CLOSED Hannah Rouse	<p>Please do NOT cave to pressures from small groups such as ReOpen NC. People's lives are at stake, and that is SO much more important than the inconvenience or even the financial impacts, to those people who are more concerned about themselves than about others' safety.</p> <p>I would NOT like to see NC "opened" back up, and I would not and will not spend any money at any newly opened businesses if the state decides to allow these few illogical requests to dictate the possible health consequences to the majority of the state's residents.</p> <p>Our essential employees are the backbone of this community, and are keeping our state running despite the closures of many businesses and places. If those essential employees were to become ill due to an accelerated spread after allowing freedom of movement to all or even most residents, they are not replaceable! Not to their families, not to their workplaces, and not to the state.</p> <p>Please consider the worst case possible health impacts to our communities and err on the side of caution, not finance. Thank you.</p>
04/15/2020 01:31 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Keep it CLOSED Hannah Rouse	<p>Please do NOT cave to pressures from small groups such as ReOpen NC. People's lives are at stake, and that is SO much more important than the inconvenience or even the financial impacts, to those people who are more concerned about themselves than about others' safety.</p> <p>I would NOT like to see NC "opened" back up, and I would not and will not spend any</p>

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			<p>money at any newly opened businesses if the state decides to allow these few illogical requests to dictate the possible health consequences to the majority of the state's residents.</p> <p>Our essential employees are the backbone of this community, and are keeping our state running despite the closures of many businesses and places. If those essential employees were to become ill due to an accelerated spread after allowing freedom of movement to all or even most residents, they are not replaceable! Not to their families, not to their workplaces, and not to the state.</p> <p>Please consider the worst case possible health impacts to our communities and err on the side of caution, not finance. Thank you.</p>
04/15/2020 01:31 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Ann Kieffer	<p>Over a million people in North Carolina are facing the COVID-19 virus with no health insurance. I urge you to immediately cut this number in half by accepting federal funding for Medicaid expansion. This will serve to relieve our health care system by allowing uninsured to seek health care in a timely manner. Access to preventative care and early intervention decreases the exacerbation of medical conditions that often force the uninsured to seek help in emergency rooms. The costs for these unpaid services are often passed on to others, making medical care more expensive for everyone. NC cannot afford the risks involved by not choosing Medicaid expansion during this current pandemic. Having access to medical care will help low-income families' economic recovery following these challenging times.</p>
04/15/2020 01:31 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Keep it CLOSED Hannah Rouse	<p>Please do NOT cave to pressures from small groups such as ReOpen NC. People's lives are at stake, and that is SO much more important than the inconvenience or even the financial impacts, to those people who are more concerned about themselves than about others' safety.</p> <p>I would NOT like to see NC "opened" back up, and I would not and will not spend any money at any newly opened businesses if the state decides to allow these few illogical requests to dictate the possible health consequences to the majority of the state's residents.</p> <p>Our essential employees are the backbone of this community, and are keeping our state running despite the closures of many businesses and places. If those essential employees were to become ill due to an accelerated spread after allowing freedom of movement to all or even most residents, they are not replaceable! Not to their families, not to their workplaces, and not to the state.</p> <p>Please consider the worst case possible health impacts to our communities and err on the side of caution, not finance. Thank you.</p>
04/15/2020 01:32 PM	Education Working Group	Keep it CLOSED Hannah Rouse	<p>Please do NOT cave to pressures from small groups such as ReOpen NC. People's lives are at stake, and that is SO much more important than the inconvenience or even the financial impacts, to those people who are more concerned about themselves than about others' safety.</p> <p>I would NOT like to see NC "opened" back up, and I would not and will not spend any</p>

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04/15/2020 01:32 PM	Health Care Working Group	Expand Medicaid Jennifer Brodie	Now, more than ever, the need to expand Medicaid is urgent and even more clear. Please help ALL people of NC to have access to health care. Doing so is important not only for the health of individuals, but for the health of all, especially during this public health crisis. Please do the right thing and ensure the basic right of health care for all in the state.
04/15/2020 01:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	time to open up Ross Duncan	This response has been disproportionate to the threat. We can't shut down our economy and destroy our civil liberties over the threat of a simple respiratory virus. this won't be over until 60% of the population gets it and gets immunity, and to let that happen we need to let people mingle while protecting the most vulnerable. We can't survive flattening the curve for months or years.
04/15/2020 01:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Ken Bridle	Please consider health to be more important than money, when considering loosening social distancing requirements.
04/15/2020 01:38 PM	Health Care Working Group	Keep people safe Penelope Gallins	Please don't rush stopping the stay at home order. Keep people safe
04/15/2020 01:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Susan Arthur	If we re-open too soon, we will enable another wave of sickness, whereupon we will have to shut down again. That will only lengthen the overall problem. Do it once, do it right, and we will be shut of this sooner.
04/15/2020 01:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Eric Treants	I support our Governors commitment to keeping our state safe. I agree with and ask that we continue to practice social distancing until health experts have deemed it safe to reopen our state.
04/15/2020 01:39 PM	Health Care Working Group	Anna Jensen	As someone who leads community health workers reaching agricultural workers, I wanted to write in support of extended stay-at-home orders as well as more support for essential workers. We work with agricultural workers, who are rightly designated as essential workers during this time. However, I believe that if stay-at-home orders at the end of April are suddenly lifted, these and other essential workers' lives will be more at risk. I support government support for essential workers in the form of payments and other monetary support. I think we can support the economy in this way during this critical time when we must remain at home - not by re-opening soon. We must make that decision informed by science, best practices in other states experiencing this emergency, and the advice of health agencies, not based on fear or the desire to sacrifice people for profits. I think we can find ways to support small businesses, essential workers, and those who are

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			unemployed without putting everyone at risk with rash re-openings.
04/15/2020 01:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Marilyn Priddy	<p>Please, please, please. We should not have to risk our health to vote. My husband is a transplant patient and we both have to be super careful even after the shelter-in-place orders are lifted until a vaccine is available. This will most likely be after the November election. You can help us and many others with health issues by taking action now to protect our voting rights:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend voting rules to give the NC Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies such as: pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, etc. 2. Make absentee voting easier by making ballots easier to obtain, and open to everyone eligible to vote. An on-line portal should be available to apply for an absentee ballot. Two witnesses during social distancing is unsafe and unrealistic especially for single, older people. 3. Make voter registration available on line. (You can now register to vote or update your voter registration address or party affiliation on line via the NC Division of Motor Vehicles if you are a DMV customer.) 4. Assume the costs for mailing in an absentee ballot. <p>Thank you for your service.</p>
04/15/2020 01:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Nancy McKelvey	NC should: amend voting rules to give Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies like the current pandemic; make absentee ballots easier to obtain by setting up an on-line portal and by eliminating the requirement of 2 witnesses which is unsafe and unrealistic for single and older people; make voter registration available on line; NC should also assume the costs of mailing absentee ballots.
04/15/2020 01:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Please do not rush to reopen NC. It would result in another wave of infections before too long. It would be irresponsible to not put the health and well being of the citizens as the utmost priority.
04/15/2020 01:43 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Kirstin Morgan	I would like to stress the need for North Carolina to not jump to reopening at this time. Not only do we risk overwhelming hospitals and forcing another lockdown if we reopen too early, but most importantly we will cause many more deaths of North Carolina residents. I understand the wish to have folks return to work, to some sense of normalcy, but the best data (as analyzed by the experts), both on the current virus and historic pandemics, clearly points to continuing to keep as many North Carolinians at home as possible. What the legislature can do is provide more support for those out of work and struggling. And we can slowly and carefully begin to reopen things based on guidelines from agencies such as the WHO and CDC when we have enough tests and the ability to contact trace, when our hospitals are resourced adequately to handle any hot spots, and when guidelines are in place to keep people safe when out in public. Only by working together can we save lives and livelihoods.
04/15/2020 01:43 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Susan Arthur	Voting by mail is by far the safest option for us this year. We have no idea how long it will be before we have a vaccine, and until that happens, we will not be safe in any size gathering. To preserve our democracy, please, PLEASE, enact voting by mail. It works in other states and will work here.

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04/15/2020 01:45 PM	Health Care Working Group	Stephanie Pavlis	Please cover the uninsured in our state by expanding Medicaid. North Carolina is missing out on billions in federal health care dollars and dire consequences will result. I work as a counselor with many uninsured families, and they deserve a government that acts on their behalf to offer basic health care. The pandemic illuminates huge health care disparities in our country. I implore you to make the ethical choice of supporting Medicaid expansion and saving lives.
04/15/2020 01:45 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Lisa Nixon	Re-opening non-essential businesses in NC would be a mistake, and could cause thousands of lives. I understand that people and businesses are struggling right now because of the closures, but after the threat is gone people will get the chance to rebuild or continue striving forward...if we open back up too soon, people could and probably will die. There is no rebuilding or coming back from death. Our Governor, OUR government needs to put the needs of the people and their safety above all else. Saving lives should be the paramount goal here.
04/15/2020 01:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Concerns Jean Friend	Please do not support reopening plans that do not have in place data that the virus is down to a minimum, testing is widely available and quick, hospitals are able to handle anyone who becomes sick and has the supplies necessary to give quality care, and the health department has in place contact tracing capabilities so those folks can be quarantined. If you don't you will have many more deaths and will be complicit in those deaths.
04/15/2020 01:48 PM	Education Working Group	Kimberly Lang	<p>Thank you for accepting comments. Me: classroom teacher, high-risk for complications (despite being young, fit, overall healthy), had negative-COVID 19 antibody test this week. I am happily compliant to all data- and science-informed orders, and will continue to be.</p> <p>As we plan for the upcoming school year, I and others like me are very concerned about the risks I face until a treatment or vaccine is found. I hope that creative (even if inconvenient) options for reopening schools are being considered. In particular, have you considered a hybrid (half-online, half-off) approach to school for four days a week, with three days to clear and disinfect buildings? Now that we have somewhat built capacity to teach and learn remotely, I wonder if this could be a possibility--or of districts could be empowered to structure their school weeks in ways that meet their capacity.</p> <p>Additionally, I would like reassurance that I am allowed to wear a mask while doing ALL work-related functions, as I am exposed to people all day. We should not be subject to any sort of discriminatory actions because we make this wise choice in doing our work.</p>
04/15/2020 01:48 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Joy W	I urge your consideration to lean towards keeping things as are until covid is under control. Please do not cave to the pressures of open NC. Though this group appears to be gaining traction I believe they're still in the minority and don't have the best interest of the citizens in North Carolina at heart. Lives over money.
04/15/2020 01:49 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Stay home until we can s Anne Cargill	Too many people have sacrificed to reopen before it is safe . We need testing and we need a plan. I am the mother of 2 nurses and mother in law of a doctor. Their lives are important. If we can buy war planes and bombs, we can afford to help small business businesses.

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04/15/2020 01:53 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Ronald Keeney	It is time for the NC General assembly to stop playing petty, Party politics and let government do the will of the people. Those with working brains know that the only way to limit and stop a pandemic is to provide the kind of healthcare that allows broad access. As a retired pediatrician who specialized in infectious diseases and spent much of my career in research to develop treatments for viral illnesses, it is particularly embarrassing to watch how ineptly our "leadership" is responding the Covid-19 pandemic. In the absence of broad access to healthcare, the disease spreads uncontrolled, much like in a third-world country. It is an embarrassment to live in the world's most wealthy country and yet be subject to the petty personalities that seem to drive the NC General Assembly.
04/15/2020 01:53 PM	Health Care Working Group	Neal Timpe	I support Medicaid expansion immediately without preconditions to help fight the COVID-19 pandemic.
04/15/2020 01:53 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Stay at home Jennifer Brodie	PLEASE follow the recommendations of public health experts, scientists, and epidemiologists when deciding when to re-open NC. People's lives are worth far more than money or demands from those who don't value science or public health. Please do the right thing and help to protect all of us. As painful as it is, please continue to require us to stay at home until DATA show that it is safe and prudent to lift the order. The minority voices may be loud, but that doesn't mean they're right, or that the majority of us are in agreement. Please take your oath seriously to serve and protect us all, even when it's hard.
04/15/2020 01:55 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mitzi Britt	Please help me understand with the PPPloans how all of the big corporations got all of the money and all of the smaller mom and pop shops get left behind once again. Mom and pop small businesses don't get bail outs or loans but they are the heart and soul of a community. Thank you for your time.
04/15/2020 01:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Janet Price-Ferrell	It is time to expand Medicaid due to Covid 19 as people lose their health insurance due to job lose.
04/15/2020 02:01 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Deborah Ryan	Please, please, please do not bow to the pressure of certain political groups and re-open NC before it is safe. We have lost dear friends in other states to this terrible pandemic, and we do not want to lose any more NC citizens because people cannot understand how crucial it is to make measured, thoughtful, scientifically-based decisions. Please be as cautious as you need to be in order to protect citizens, nurses, doctors, grocery store clerks, sanitation staff -- everyone who is "essential" to keep our world running.
04/15/2020 02:02 PM	Health Care Working Group	David Southworth	Until on demand, no delay testing for Covid19 is available in all 100 counties; and until positive case tracking and isolation provisions are enabled... no suspension of stay at home orders can occur.
04/15/2020 02:03 PM	Health Care Working Group	Keep NORTH CAROLINA CLOS Diana Taylor	Please keep our State closed We aren't ready.
04/15/2020 02:04 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Patricia Brumbaugh	Keep the social distancing until covid19 transmission is ended. Authorize mail in balloting for all elections. Ignore mass submitted responses from nonpublic organizers.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 02:08 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jillian Grimm	Please do not rush to open the state. Until we have wider testing ability along with serum testing, reopening would cause greater economic harm in the long run. If we stop the shutdown too soon, it will be just as bad or worse than it was when the decision to close was first made. Please do not let partisanship divisions to kill North Carolinians.
04/15/2020 02:08 PM	Education Working Group	Dorothy Eubanks	Please DO NOT "reopenNC". Everyone needs to stay home to break the infection chain. Do you see how nursing homes and rehab centers are becoming hotspots of infection? Think about schools where there isn't enough room to stay 6 feet away from each other in a classroom and no trained medical personnel. No PPE...even thinking about reopening anything before we have sufficient tests to see who is carrying the virus will send endanger everyone.
04/15/2020 02:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol Fox	We need to make sure that everyone can vote, easily, by mail-in ballot in November if that is the safest option. It would be so unfair for people who have health issues--or just health concerns--to have to choose between risking their lives or voting. What happened in Wisconsin was appalling. North Carolina voters must have a better way. Thank you.
04/15/2020 02:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Laurie Lindsay	<p>In light of the Covid -19 pandemic and the likelihood that the current situation is likely to continue and possibly have a second wave in the Fall, our State needs to plan for how the 2020 elections will be handled. We saw what happened during the WI primary where citizens had to choose between their health and exercising their civic duty. North Carolinians do not need to pursue this path. Therefore it is suggested that the following be done:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend voting rules to give the NC Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies such as: pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, etc. 2. Make absentee voting easier by making ballots easier to obtain, and open to everyone eligible to vote. An on-line portal should be available to apply for an absentee ballot. Two witnesses during social distancing is unsafe and unrealistic especially for single, older people. 3. Make voter registration available on line. (You can now register to vote or update your voter registration address or party affiliation on line via the NC Division of Motor Vehicles if you are a DMV customer.) 4. Assume the costs for mailing in an absentee ballot. <p>Thank you for considering my comments. I hope you make the right decision so all eligible North Carolinians can vote without fear for their health!</p>
04/15/2020 02:12 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Erica Rapport Gringle	Please prioritize health needs over market needs. Until the doctors and scientists say we can resume our lives and have a plan for safely doing so, we need to continue staying home.
04/15/2020 02:14 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Time for a plan Sam Davis	It's time for a plan to reopen the state. We are talking long lasting economic damage to or state the longer we stay closed.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/15/2020 02:14 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol Fox	<p>We need to make sure everybody in North Carolina who can possibly stay home does--until there is clear medical consensus that it's safe for people to go back out. It would be a travesty if preventable deaths happen in our state because we stop sheltering-in-place too early.</p> <p>Thank you.</p> <p>Sincerely, Carol Fox Durham</p>
04/15/2020 02:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Martha Schutz	<p>North Carolinians are grateful for the existence of this committee to ensure every voter will be able to safely vote by mail this November. Providing every voter with a Mail-In ballot and waiving the witness signature requirements and postage costs will be essential for the viability and integrity of NC's November elections. NC is fortunate to have the successful examples of Colorado, Hawaii, Oregon, Washington and Utah, who conduct all elections by mail--and of 21 other states, who conduct municipal elections by mail--to follow as we implement Mail-In Voting. Thank you for fast-tracking Mail-In Voting across all of our hundred counties in time for the 2020 general election.</p>
04/15/2020 02:18 PM	Health Care Working Group	Protect our vulnerable Kristin Neal	<p>Please continue to protect our vulnerable. I have a daughter with Asthma so we have been taking the shelter in place seriously. I see tons of people out and about still and I know a lot of people aren't taking it seriously. In fact they want to reopen NC. They don't care about the population that will be hurt by this and that the hospitals aren't equipped to handle a large amount of Covid-19 virus victims. Please continue to protect our population.</p>
04/15/2020 02:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Mary Goodkind	<p>Expanding Medicaid would keep all of us safer and healthier. We are missing out on Federal money that we should be using. Expand Medicaid NOW!</p>
04/15/2020 02:28 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Nancy Gottovi	<p>We need to continue the stay home order until science and medical professionals say it is safe to start reopening. Anything less would be beyond tragic.</p>
04/15/2020 02:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Mary Vinson	<p>I am writing as a citizen of N.C. and a Registered Nurse to encourage you once again to expand Medicaid services in the state of NC. This step should have been taken long ago, but now as so many North Carolinians are affected by the pandemic, it is critical that you take this step. Many of NC's uninsured are working on the front line, providing critically needed services. Expanding Medicare would unlock billions of dollars in federal funding to support our citizens and our struggling health care systems. Please do the responsible thing and act now.</p>
04/15/2020 02:30 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Pat Buede	<p>Protect public health and keep stay-at-home orders in place (if not extend them), because without the public's health, there is no economy. I pay taxes therefore I am NOT a lobbyist with deep pockets.</p>
04/15/2020 02:31 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Kelly Thompson	<p>Please rely on medical experts in when deciding to reopen the state. Lives are more important than Wall Street.</p>
04/15/2020 02:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working	Mrs. Pat Buede	<p>Mail in voting only. Plus make a holiday for Nov. 3rd...</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
04/15/2020 02:34 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Emily Jividen	Hey, please keep safety at the forefront as you consider opening up the economy. Move slowly, in stages, and with public health experts at the forefront of decisions. Better to stay home now than reimpose restrictions later because the disease got out of control.
04/15/2020 02:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Jennifer Bragaw	Please arrange for the 6 steps the world health organisation recommends before you relax restrictions. I value my life! And as my representative you should too!
04/15/2020 02:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Robin Hammond	I am a NC native and a voter. I support the shelter-in-place order and applaud Gov. Cooper and team for their leadership and compassion. The order needs to be abided by and any decisions about it made by qualified health professionals. The public's health is not a political football.
04/15/2020 02:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms robin proctor	keep the state closed. Do not kill me or my family because somenoeole are too stupid to understand how contagions work. Get vote by mail while you are at it, too
04/15/2020 02:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Janina Austin	I support efforts to make NC a 100% vote-by-mail election state, following the example of many other states who have done the same. At a minimum, remove hurdles to voting such as: requiring a different paper form request for each election, instead of one opt-in for indefinite mail-in ballots, remove the need for voters to pay postage, remove the requirement for voting to be witnessed by two people or a notary and replace with having voter sign the outside of the envelope. This will lead to more informed voting (instead of having to research all options in advance and bring decisions with you to ballot box), more voter participation and most importantly in these times, no requirement to pick between your Health or your Vote.
04/15/2020 02:40 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	WILLIAM HAUSER	Stay at home for most noncritical workers until testing for all can be implemented, please. It is safe, not sorry.
04/15/2020 02:40 PM	Health Care Working Group	Patty Hamilton	I am in favor of keeping non essential businesses/services shut down until we can determine by widespread test results and scientific methods that it is safe to return to work. As difficult as it is right now, we cannot jeopardize people's lives in order to open up non essential services. This shutdown would be in vane if we prematurely lift these restrictions. Please stay strong and continue to increase testing and scientific research regarding this awful virus!!! Thank you!!!
04/15/2020 02:42 PM	Health Care Working Group	Maintain Stay at Home! Susie Jones	Do not prematurely lift the stay at home mandate. Follow all CDC and Dr. Fauci's guidelines. Save lives and prevent a resurgence of this virus.
04/15/2020 02:43 PM	Education Working Group	David Anderson	The Washington Post dated 4/13/2020 reported that due to Covid-19, millions of students will suffer from school closures. Based on the experience from Covid-19, we are requesting that the NCGA fund a major investment in NC students by funding a supportive technology infrastructure for schools and students to develop a remote Distance – Learning Model. This model would make available a continuum of learning opportunities and services for students regardless of location, and socio-economic status, as part of

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>NC's disaster preparation. With the possibility that occurrences like the COVID 19 can occur again, wouldn't it make sense to develop and implement a system for all schools to use that would provide a continuation of education and related services for students, should the need arise? Continuity of education and related services for students should be a priority, as these young people are our future.</p> <p>Right now, as in many cities and communities throughout the US, not every child has access to a computer and / or the internet at home to be able to access distance-learning education. This needs to change, and can be by creating partnerships between the school system(s) and telecommunication. For example, MCPS in Maryland and FCPS in Virginia, school systems are partnering with telecommunication companies (Verizon, AT &T, etc...) to provide basic internet access in student homes that have no internet. School systems are loaning chromebooks (Acer computers) that are signed out to each student to be used during this remote distance learning period. The New York Times, and other businesses are offering support, access, and monies to communities that need help in setting up these distance-learning systems. MCPS and FCPS have been very creative in developing / presenting online curriculum using different programs and platforms, some of which include, but are not limited to Google Classroom, Zoom, MY MCPSPortal (MCPS), Blackboard, etc.. Challenging times call for creativity, resourcefulness, and partnering to set up programs by which ALL students from pre-K through grade 12, have the opportunity to learn – albeit in a nontraditional way. By ensuring every student has these basic technological tools, it also ensures every family is connected to school and resources. This needs to be implemented before the next disaster pandemic – as soon as possible.</p>
04/15/2020 02:43 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Lisa Blair	We cannot lift the "lockdown" too soon. If we do, there will be a huge spike in infections and deaths. The flattening of the curve is working, but we have to stay the course.
04/15/2020 02:44 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Laurie Meilleur	<p>Please allow the experts to use fact guided policies to reopen North Carolina. I have many family members working in health care and the toll of this pandemic is affecting them especially, please do not allow politics to guide policies as our lives and sanity need to keep the numbers down.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
04/15/2020 02:46 PM	Health Care Working Group	Foye Joslin	Public health comes first then open up the economy
04/15/2020 02:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Lisa Blair	Please seriously consider and implement mail-in voting. It is the safest way to allow everyone to have their vote counted while remaining safe. This will allow us to continue flattening the curve thereby reducing the number of deaths.
04/15/2020 02:46 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	mail in voting Catherine Hale	Hello, Is there someone setting up mail-in voting for November? I'd hate to see people's health put at risk like it was earlier this month in Wisconsin. Please do not re-open NC any time soon. More people will die. Thank you for your efforts in protecting everyone's life.
04/15/2020 02:46 PM	Continuity of State	Kate Griffin	Please do NOT listen to people, a small group certainly organized by somebody who will

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		profit from their actions, who would endanger the rest of North Carolina citizens by cutting this time of quarantine. Do not open the doors to killing fields for all citizens of this state.
04/15/2020 02:47 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Kathe Kaufman	I believe that it is crucial that the stay-at-home order remain in place, if not extended, until we have sustained evidence that the curve has flattened and have antibody testing available. The antics of the OpenNCNow group were reckless and irresponsible. We need to stay the course!.
04/15/2020 02:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Marcia Morgan	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Amend voting rules to give the NC Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies such as: pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, etc. 2. Make absentee voting easier by making ballots easier to obtain, and open to everyone eligible to vote. An on-line portal should be available to apply for an absentee ballot. Two witnesses during social distancing is unsafe and unrealistic especially for single, older people. 3. Make voter registration available on line. (You can now register to vote or update your voter registration address or party affiliation on line via the NC Division of Motor Vehicles if you are a DMV customer.) 4. Assume the costs for mailing in an absentee ballot.
04/15/2020 02:48 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Abigail Lin	<p>Hello!</p> <p>I am a resident physician in Internal Medicine in NC. I have written to Governor Cooper by email a few times during this pandemic, and I wanted to write here also to express my appreciation for his (and the state's) quick response in implementing social distancing. I am proud to be a North Carolinian, and I think we are doing absolutely the right thing with strict stay-at-home measures.</p> <p>I know this current situation is difficult in different ways for everybody, and I do not want to minimize the individual struggles that everyone is going through. I worry, however, about the recent push towards re-opening NC that some communities are supporting. There is unfortunately a huge amount of misinformation circulating regarding COVID-19 - but from my experience as part of the medical community, and from what I am hearing from physician colleagues who are struggling in different cities across the U.S. (not just epicenters like NYC), this is not like anything we have ever dealt with. It is folly to compare COVID-19 to other viral illnesses like influenza.</p> <p>Nothing about this situation is fair, but it is especially unfair that all over the country, there are young, healthy college-age students with no previous conditions who are intubated, in critical care units, and on the brink of death - to say nothing of older patients with pre-existing health conditions who didn't deserve this either. It would be horrendously premature to consider opening NC by May when we are not even at the peak of the curve. Even with current strict social distancing measures, we are seeing a slow but steady uptick in COVID-19 cases in our hospital. There is no sign yet that we have reached peak, let alone passed it. I am certain that if we removed social distancing measures, we would</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>be setting ourselves up for a second wave, and likely a surge, that hospitals would not be able to accommodate.</p> <p>I am grateful for our hospital's leadership and the work they have done to quickly adapt to an entirely different style of medicine than anyone has trained for. I am grateful for colleagues who are brave, and smart, and passionate about their work. But it is especially unfair that my patients - including the ones without COVID - are the ones who have to suffer because people aren't taking this pandemic seriously. It is unfair that all of my patients in the hospital have to be isolated because each visitor carries the risk of spreading COVID. It is unfair that patients are not able to undergo elective procedures because hospitals cannot waste resources, or risk spreading illness, and because hospitals are no longer safe places to be. Until this past month I had not often thought about what it would mean to have to die alone - but this is happening as I write this, to patients in ICUs, patients in hospice, because the risk of COVID-19 spreading through these entire populations is too great.</p> <p>And I am grateful for our state's leadership, which reassures me that we are doing everything we can to make sure everybody stays safe. North Carolina is absolutely on the right track at the moment, but to reverse measures too soon would be to undo all of our hard work for the past month, and would set us up for a surge that no one is equipped to deal with - and we are already seeing similar surges in states like Louisiana and Georgia. I am grateful for all the hard work you have done up until now, and ask only that you continue to make thoughtful decisions with the same caution and compassion that you have displayed through this crisis.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration. Please stay healthy and well.</p> <p>Abigail Lin, MD</p>
04/15/2020 02:48 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Janina Austin	<p>We are all concerned about the economy, but mitigation efforts (continuing the stay-home order for non-essential employees) is absolutely necessary to prevent exponential growth in new infections, hospitalizations, hospital bankruptcies and deaths. Without widespread availability of testing (we aren't even able to test all of those with symptoms, much less those who are asymptomatic carriers) nothing has changed from when we began this stay-at-home order. We must have full availability of testing, contact tracing and the ability to isolate those with COVID-19 at fever clinics for diagnosis and hotels or other large buildings for those who don't need to be hospitalized, but don't want to infect their families. We need all of this before reopening. Where is the federal leadership and why aren't you pushing harder to make FEMA buy PPE and have the DOD run logistics to get our healthcare workers the PPE they deserve? Are they expendable? Should they and we have to die to make the economy run? We need tests to show who has antibodies to COVID-19, before we can reopen NC in an intelligent way. Your leadership is more important than ever. Keep the stay-at-home order in place until we have the testing we need.</p>
04/15/2020 02:48 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Jermatic Chambers	<p>Please give NC workers who have been laid off more clear guidance on the additional \$600 payment.</p>
04/15/2020 02:49 PM	Education Working	Stay home! Kelly Carter	<p>Keep the stay at home order in place!</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		
04/15/2020 02:49 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Anne McLaughlin	I appreciate the concern over our economy, but please don't be hasty with "opening the state back up." History shows that those areas that have the strongest response to a virus, with a good shut down and tracking, etc. do better economically in the long run. Please, keep us safe by keeping us home.
04/15/2020 02:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Lorilyn Bailey	I'm not sure why Republicans want to open the economy so soon if their friends, co-workers, neighbors, and relatives are going to DIE because of it. That doesn't seem to be a good choice if Republicans want to be re-elected.
04/15/2020 02:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Eleanor Wertman	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I write to express my strongest support for ensuring all North Carolinians are able to cast a ballot by mail in our upcoming election. I urge the General Assembly to ensure there is adequate funding and infrastructure in place to ensure absentee ballots can be sent with plenty of time to anyone who requests them. No one should be forced to choose between exercising their constitutional right to vote and protecting themselves from a potentially deadly illness.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration. Eleanor Wertman</p>
04/15/2020 02:53 PM	Health Care Working Group	Janina Austin	I support expansion of Medicaid to the fullest extent possible, to ensure that those infected with COVID-19 can be treated early. We need to do all we can to slow the spread of these infections and studies have shown those without health insurance or with ridiculously high deductibles will stay away from the doctor until their lives depend on it. That's too late with this disease and leaves those who are infected out in the community, spreading the virus to more and more people. If we want people to come in for diagnosis and treatment as early as possible, we have to eliminate the need to pay thousands of dollars which folks don't have. We cannot fight an enemy we cannot see. We must identify those who are infected. We cannot do that without an expansion of Medicaid.
04/15/2020 02:56 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ann Parvin	Participation in elections is an essential contribution by all in a Democracy. Please assure that North Carolina empowers its Board of Elections to make it safe and easy for each individual to cast their ballot. Please do not play political games with this constitutional right and obligation. Assure the safety, security, accessibility of our elections.
04/15/2020 02:57 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Eleanor Wertman	<p>Good afternoon,</p> <p>I write as a public health professional working for a healthcare system to urge the General Assembly to pursue immediate Medicaid expansion. The novel coronavirus has caused unprecedented job loss in our state, leaving hundreds without insurance and adequate access to healthcare. Lack of access to timely care will only exacerbate both the spread of the novel coronavirus and the common chronic conditions like diabetes that put people at higher risk of death from coronavirus. Furthermore, hospital systems, already financially struggling during this crisis, face further financial risk and even closure if they are flooded with uninsured patients. Medicaid expansion would protect not only the health of North Carolinians but also the financial health of hospital systems.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			Expanding Medicaid is the right thing to do from a moral, public health, and economic perspective. Failure to do so will result in unnecessary death and worsen the coronavirus-related economic crisis even further.
			Thank you for your consideration. Eleanor Wertman, MPH
04/15/2020 02:58 PM	Health Care Working Group	RT(R) Melissa Hanna	Keep us home and safe until we have more testing and/or antibody testing. Please. The lives of all our citizens is way more important than business. We will keep working to raise money for those who need help and thank you for the unemployment funds to those who need it. Im an xray tech and my husband's job is essential too, keeping non essential home is what is keeping us safe to come home to our kids. Thank you!