

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/20/2020 03:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Jennifer Jeffords	Please, let all businesses reopen May 1st. I know quite a few owners and they are struggling to stay open and some have already closed. I agree with the schools staying closed until May 15th, but not businesses. Thank you for your time.
04/20/2020 03:14 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Bridget Tarrant	<p>Voter Rights need to be addressed before the General Election in November 2020 by doing the following:</p> <p>Expand vote by mail by sending all registered voters a postage paid ballot (not just an application— a ballot) and establishing safeguards to protect voters.</p> <p>Extend early in-person voting so not everyone has to vote on Election Day.</p> <p>Adopt or expand online and same-day voter registration.</p> <p>Take regulated measures to protect the health of voters and poll workers.</p> <p>Conduct voter education campaigns to inform the public of new practices and immediately quash disinformation as it arises.</p> <p>Give the NC Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies such as: pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, etc</p>
04/20/2020 03:44 PM	Education Working Group	Dr. Richard Rosen	<p>How does COVID – 19 change the need to close the insurance coverage gap?</p> <p>Before COVID – 19 there were compelling reasons for NC to join 37 other states and close our coverage gap and expand Medicaid. 400,000 people would gain health insurance. In states that expanded Medicaid, many measures, including greater access to care, improved control of chronic conditions like diabetes and hypertension, and reduced infant mortality have been reported, compared to states that didn't expand. Insurance premiums average 11% less in states that have expanded Medicaid, as there is less cost shifting when there are fewer uninsured. George Washington University, in a study sponsored by Cone Health Foundation and Kate B. Reynolds Charitable Trust showed improved health outcomes and creation of 37,000 jobs over the next 3 years if NC expanded Medicaid.</p> <p>The COVID – 19 pandemic is adding stress to both health and economic aspects of life in North Carolina. We are seeing huge increases of new unemployment claims and a daily uptick in positive test results. The shutting down of elective procedures and surgeries will deprive hospitals of a dependable source of income. The edict that tests for COVID 19 are free for patients translates to greater unreimbursed expense for providers. Donning protective equipment takes time, and if there are many patients in isolation, more caregiver hours will be necessary. Overcoming supply shortages in protective personnel equipment and ventilators will be costly. Stress from families cooped up at home is manifested by increase calls to law enforcement for domestic violence and psychological agencies for anxiety, and Medicaid Expansion would provide needed mental health care. Many North Carolina hospitals, particularly in rural areas, were in a precarious financial way before COVID – 19, and the pandemic increases their vulnerability.</p> <p>There is speculation that the federal share of expanding Medicaid, currently 90%, might climb to 100% for the next 3 years. Whether the state share is 0 or 10%, it is now imperative that North Carolina stop sending our tax dollars to Washington, from whence it gets distributed to 37 other states. COVID - 19 makes an important step a health and economic emergency.</p>
04/20/2020 03:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ms. Allison Crossman	I support adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S. 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.
04/20/2020 03:56 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Elizabeth Burns	It is time to get this state up and working again. This is not sustainable, it is killing our small businesses and is preventing society, in general, from developing an immunity against this virus. Election time is coming and I can't wait!
04/20/2020 04:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Kelly Cannon	Reopen NC! This shutdown is devastating is economically and not having the disastrous effects predicted. It's time to loosen the strings and hear the people.
04/20/2020 04:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Protests Paige Stallings	Do they have a permit to protest? Protests from people trucking/bussing/vanning their way to Raleigh are wrong, bad for public health, a distraction that will be covered by media therefore given more credence than reasonable, and should not be allowed. If they'll be heavily armed and gathering in large groups, why isn't the national guard being called in to prevent it?
04/20/2020 04:09 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Victroia Depta	Please consider the damage the Governor's executive shutdown order is doing to the NC economy. The states Covid infections and hospitalizations are low compared to the North east and some other areas of the country. NC is losing revenue, while North Carolinians are loosing livelihoods. Healthcare workers have been layed-off. SC is about to open their businesses, and the tax revenue from North Carolinians is sure to go to SC when it opens business-a loss for NC. The public has learned a lot and understands more fully the need to clean hands, social distance, and disinfect, which all can be done with businesses open. Please reopen NC so many of my friends can earn a living again.
04/20/2020 04:15 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Alison C Greene	Please extend the stay at home order UNTIL there is adequate testing and monitoring capacity in place to detect a potential resurgence of the spread of COVID-19, and a detailed plan about what to do if that happens. Trying to restart the economy without adequate protection of public health is false economy. Ultimately, we will not be completely safe until there is a vaccine and a mass public health vaccine campaign, but in the interim, there is much we can do to improve our understanding and outcomes. Testing, testing, testing. AND of course guarding against overwhelming our hospital capacity through social distancing and staying at home. As a teaching professor at NCSU with pre-existing health conditions that make me high risk should I contract this virus, I take this very personally, but I am also very concerned for the health and safety of my students and their families. Please accept the MEDICAID EXPANSION without further ado, so more of our state's uninsured do not suffer and die for want of health care. Our lives are in your hands.
04/20/2020 04:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Deborah Ferris	I truly hope that consideration will be given to programs for individuals living at home that enhance quality of life by reducing anxiety, isolation, negative behaviors and depressive symptoms while improving communication, positive interactions and stimulating brain activity. There are numerous programs available now that offer things like personalized music, art therapy and senior friendly computer/tablet apps. They serve as effective interventions that helps ease caregiver burden, reduces the use of psychotropic drugs, pain medications and sleeping aids, etc. They give individuals an alternative way to express themselves when communication may be limited, and to prevent or eliminate delirium which mimics dementia. These programs and tools help individuals to "remain present" and in touch with their personal identity, family members and the world around

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>them at a time when they may be isolated and at greater risk. Benefits are backed by anecdotal and evidence-based research. The “right conditions” are in place for these interventions because they are perhaps the most beneficial and cost-effective way to improve overall quality of life, yet most individuals receiving care do not have access to them. Caregivers can use these tools strategically to meet specific needs of their loved ones, promote well-being and improve outcomes. If funds are being secured to support individuals living at home, I hope the working group will consider these interventions. They often come as a package along with other technology-based tools. Thank you so much for your important work and consideration.</p>
04/20/2020 04:32 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Joy Lockley	<p>I understand that we must slow roll opening the state but it is time to start that process and our leaders should be talking publicly about plans for return to an open state. We cannot hide forever in our homes because we are afraid of what would happen if we tried to return to a normal life. People have jobs and businesses that must be attended to and no unemployment checks will ever replace these in their lives and the lives of their families. The elderly and vulnerable need to take all precautions while the public at large need to continue using all distancing measures when possible and using hand washing/sanitizing methods. Those who are just afraid are free to make the choice to stay home and not participate in opening up our economy. But it is time to start this process.</p>
04/20/2020 04:34 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Robert Spaziano	<p>With COVID risks, I recommend that the State of NC begin planning and funding for a full Vote by Mail in the November General Elections.</p>
04/20/2020 04:39 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr and Mrs Patricia and Kobe Kelley	<p>We feel it is too early to open the state. We listen to, and believe, the medical professionals and they all say it isn't time. Please don't let protesters dictate what should happen as they are only spreading the virus.</p>
04/20/2020 04:46 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Sandra Ricci	<p>Tim Moore, Chairman, NCGA Covid-19 Committee, Attn: Economic Recovery Subcommittee</p> <p>Dear Chairman Moore,</p> <p>During the Covid-19 disaster, we want to ensure that the NCGA makes every effort to help small business owners throughout the state, because they are central to our economy and communities. Small Businesses provide employment to half of all Americans. Brookings Institute estimates that more than half of them are in serious danger of closing for good as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. Furthermore, a Main Street America survey estimated one third of the businesses with less than 20 employees were in danger of closing for good within two months if they didn't receive substantial help.</p> <p>NCGA must develop a disaster recovery plan that can bring Small Businesses back as quickly as possible when the medical experts say that it is safe to do so. We know that the virus has the potential to recycle with devastating effects again if we reopen too soon.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>At the Federal-level, the Paycheck Protection program ran out of funds in two weeks. And Congress continues its partisan fighting. Small Businesses have been receiving help on a first come, first serve basis. The NCGA needs to provide Small Businesses with immediate assistance along with supporting paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all impacted workers, including “gig workers”.</p> <p>Further, the Washington Post reported on 4/15/20 in the article “Americans love small businesses is all talk” that “in a number of European countries businesses received payroll supports, meaning the government essentially took a percentage of their payrolls, freezing the economy in place so they could reopen when the danger passed.” We are requesting that the NCGA provide some variation of this approach in NC.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>David Anderson, 1925 Trent River Ave., Wake Forest, NC 27587, (407) 325-5169 Keith Johnson & Karen Mallam, 810 Buckner Springs Rd., Siler City, NC (919) 742-9953 Sandra Ricci, 6609 Battleford Dr., Raleigh, NC 27613, (919) 807-9782</p>
04/20/2020 04:50 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Sandra Ricci	<p>Tim Moore, Chairman, NCGA Covid-19 Committee,</p> <p>Dear Chairman Moore,</p> <p>There is circumstantial but compelling evidence that Covid-19 is linked to the Climate Crisis (global warming and and air pollution). The stay-at-home requirements necessitated by Covid-19 pandemic have resulted in clear evidence of environmental healing. This healing was the result of less carbon-emissions from cars and planes and/or fewer people-related activities.</p> <p>It is well known that NC’s two biggest air quality problems are ground-level ozone and particle pollution caused mainly by car and truck emissions, and from coal-burning power plants that supply a lot of NC electricity.</p> <p>The New York Times reported in their April 7, 2020 article “New Research Links Air Pollution to Higher Coronavirus Death Rates” from a nationwide study. Coronavirus patients who lived in areas with higher levels of air pollution are more likely to die from the infection than patients in cleaner parts of the country.</p> <p>We are asking the NCGA to develop legislation to move NC rapidly from fossil fuel to renewable energies. To facilitate that, strategies that should be considered and could be implemented are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - an aggressive recycling program - reuse programs - reductions to municipal solid waste - energy conservation - live green - 1. Use “green” energy like solar power, wind power, geothermal power, microgrids, wave and tidal systems, methane digesters,biomass systems and implementation of energy storage systems; 2. Develop legislation to promote walkable

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>neighborhoods; 3.Develop legislation to promote the implementation of landscaping plans to capture carbon;4. Develop legislation to build an IT infrastructure to maximize teleschool and tele-work, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - a carbon tax on "fossil fuel" use - tax credits for using "green" products and services - aggressive job skilling programs for "green" products and services <p>The tools exist to tackle the problems caused by the climate crisis and you job is to help bring those tools to bear in order to fix those problems.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>David Anderson, 1925 Trent River Ave., Wake Forest, NC (407) 325-5169 Keith Johnson & Karen Mallam, 810 Buckner Springs Rd., Siler City, NC, (919)742-9953 Sandra Ricci, 6609 Battleford Drive, Raleigh, NC, (919) 807-9782</p>
04/20/2020 04:53 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Sandra Ricci	<p>Tim Moore, Chairman, NCGA Covid-19 Committee, Healthcare and Economic Recovery Subcommittees</p> <p>Dear Chairman Moore,</p> <p>The Covid-19 pandemic highlights the disastrous problem of food scarcity for vulnerable people in North Carolina. We request the NCGA develop legislation to ensure that all children who receive free meals at school continue to be fed throughout this crisis. Also, we ask the NCGA to adopt and implement a disaster food scarcity program within a human rights framework . This program should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ensure all North Carolinians have access to food through local food banks, • ensure government accountability, • actively work with affected populations, • ensure food security analytic monitoring against National action plans that also account for vulnerability and discrimination, and, • include stronger connections between policies and health outcomes. <p>This disaster food scarcity program should incorporate the right-to-food approach, review and resolve challenges to implementing it, and suggest actions for implementing it in a timely fashion before the next emergency.</p> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>David Anderson 1925 Trent River Ave. Wake Forest, NC (407) 325-5169</p> <p>Keith Johnson & Karen Mallam</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			810 Buckner Springs Rd. Siler City, NC 27344 Sandra Ricci 6609 Battleford Dr. Raleigh, NC 27613 919-807-9782
04/20/2020 04:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Gustavo Padilla	This is the communist domination, let's go to work, don't let the left destroy the economy to blame Trump Let's take America to work again
04/20/2020 05:07 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Ken Gilbert	Why not follow President Trumps plan to open NC in the three steps Trump presented to the country? South Carolina is opening and Georgia is opening along with 22 other states. Do not let Gov Cooper run NC into the ground like Va. and Michigan. Put our citizens back to work. Listen to your constituents not the politicians. Is this an election year?
04/20/2020 05:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Protests Kathleen McCarthy	Please, please do not be influenced by those protesting the shut down due to Coronavirus! Politics should NOT play a part in our state's public health and safety, regardless of Trump's efforts to do so. Please follow the advice of medical experts that warn, opening up too early is sure to backfire, causing a resurgence of high numbers.
04/20/2020 05:16 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Sheila Hargett	Open NC like you said by the end of April. Make it happen.
04/20/2020 05:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Irene Hanley	Please do not open NC too soon! Have a thorough plan in place and ease into the reopening. Nursing Homes and prisons are incubators for this virus. Show respect for the state inhabitants and create a smart plan.
04/20/2020 05:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Eugene Kupstas	Please return our State to the way things were before, as soon as possible. The General Assembly is ready to get going again. This is on top of most businesses being closed and rural schools not being able to provide an education. Churches need to assemble once more, because the First Amendment to our national Constitution depends on strong churches among other institutions. Health care providers too have two concerns. Not only must COVID-19 be contained and treated, but even more health concerns are piling up. Situations that could have been headed off with early prevention and timely treatment are being backlogged until death lightens the patient load.
04/20/2020 05:43 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Ruth Grant	I support Medicaid expansion. How can we deprive vulnerable people of health care in these times?..it makes no sense to turn down federal health care dollars

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/20/2020 05:51 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Ruth Grant	On elections. We can't have elections where people need to risk their lives to vote! We need to make mail in voting available to all voters. This should be the aim for November as well as for special elections. This is crucial, not only to ensure the election reflects the true voters choice, but also to ensure that people accept the results as legitimate
04/20/2020 05:53 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Joseph Elinoff	We must allow voting by mail in November 2020 so that people may exercise their franchise without endangering their lives.
04/20/2020 06:10 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Miss Janelle Romero	<p>Let us work! The solution is worse then the disease! These restrictions are unconstitutional. We have a God given right to our freedom. The government does not have a right to tell me how to live! Each person decides how they live, not the government! The government answers to the people. We, the people, do not answer to you!</p> <p>If you continue these unconstitutional orders, I will not comply. I will legally and peacefully resist as a form of protest under my God given right and the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution!</p> <p>I demand as a voting citizen of North Carolina that our elected leaders uphold and defend my rights as spelled out in the Constitution of the United States of America. Reopen NC no later then May 01, 2020!</p>
04/20/2020 06:19 PM	Economic Support Working Group	#REOPENNC Sherry Mullis	Please Re-Open NC (yes, safely!). NC needs to work!! Livelihoods and lives are being destroyed!!!
04/20/2020 06:23 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Miss Janelle Romero	<p>The solution is worse then the disease! These restrictions are unconstitutional. We have a God given right to our freedom. The government does not have a right to tell me how to live! Each person decides how they live, not the government! The government answers to the people. We, the people, do not answer to you!</p> <p>If you continue these unconstitutional orders, I will not comply. I will legally and peacefully resist as a form of protest under my God given right and the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution!</p> <p>I demand as a voting citizen of North Carolina that our elected leaders uphold and defend my rights as spelled out in the Constitution of the United States of America. Reopen NC no later then May 01, 2020</p>
04/20/2020 06:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Miss Janelle Romero	<p>The solution is worse then the disease! These restrictions are unconstitutional. We have a God given right to our freedom. The government does not have a right to tell me how to live! Each person decides how they live, not the government! The government answers to the people. We, the people, do not answer to you!</p> <p>If you continue these unconstitutional orders, I will not comply. I will legally and peacefully resist as a form of protest under my God given right and the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution!</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			I demand as a voting citizen of North Carolina that our elected leaders uphold and defend my rights as spelled out in the Constitution of the United States of America. Reopen NC no later then May 01, 2020
04/20/2020 07:24 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Diana Fishbein	<p>To Speaker Tim Moore and Senate President Pro Tem Phil Berger:</p> <p>Thank you for your leadership for the people of North Carolina during this time of crisis. One policy solution that is needed now more than ever is Medicaid expansion. This is a new time calling for new solutions. We know that all legislators are looking out for what's best for North Carolinians.</p> <p>During this crisis and beyond, access to health care is critical to protect the health of individuals, their families, and our entire population. Please work together and pass legislation that would bring desperately needed federal Medicaid funds to our state and most importantly provides health coverage for our friends and neighbors.</p> <p>For many of the 500,000 North Carolinians who were in the coverage gap before the virus – the situation has become far worse. Many of these uninsured workers continue to work the front lines at child care centers, nursing homes, and grocery stores. They simply can't afford to get sick. And then there are the newly unemployed and uninsured: in March, well over 300,000 North Carolinians filed for unemployment insurance. Those numbers are rising daily and most of these people will be uninsured soon if they aren't already. Medicaid has a history of helping people in times of crisis. It's there for families when the unthinkable happens. Medicaid offers quality, affordable health coverage for those who lose jobs or become ill through no fault of their own. Please close the coverage gap now to avoid further devastation and despair.</p> <p>Respectfully, Dr. Diana Fishbein</p>
04/20/2020 07:52 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. Jeremy Westerfield	<p>Please don't allow businesses and schools to reopen prematurely. Take advice from doctors and scientists, not politicians. There is an analogy going around the Internet currently, and it's absolutely true: "The curve is flattening; we can start lifting restrictions now." is like saying "The parachute has slowed our rate of descent; we can take it off now."</p> <p>This is a graph updated daily with simple facts, depicting the curve that we're trying to flatten. Notice that the curve for the United States isn't even as level as Spain, Germany, Italy, or the UK, while South Korea and China are almost flat. This is the ideal.</p> <p>https://ourworldindata.org/grapher/covid-confirmed-cases-since-100th-case?country=CHN+DEU+ITA+ESP+GBR+USA</p>
04/20/2020 08:01 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Content Fitzgerald	Re open N.C.
04/20/2020 08:02 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Ron Sutherland	<p>Please look at what the State of New York is doing in terms of starting mass random testing for Coronavirus (they just started today). We need to be testing thousands of people each week in NC, in a science-based sampling design that will actually tell us what the prevalence of the disease is across our state.</p> <p>I also strongly encourage you to conduct mail-in voting - poll workers and frequent voters both tend towards our older population, who as we know are the most vulnerable to this virus.</p> <p>Please do not re-open North Carolina until 1. the number of cases starts going down instead of up, 2. we know what the prevalence of the disease is, and 3. we have the testing kits and personnel needed to actually do contact tracing to try to extinguish new</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>outbreaks as they emerge.</p> <p>When you do start to re-open NC, please start with outdoor venues - the chances of exposure outdoors have to be far less than indoors. Since the state never even closed golf courses, in a nod to the elite, please reopen our state parks and natural areas so that the pressure on the few open parks and trails can be lifted, making everyone safer.</p>
04/20/2020 08:03 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Ron Sutherland	<p>If we want to start random testing for coronavirus across North Carolina (and we do!), ideally we should: Test simultaneously for both antibodies (prior exposure) and live virus (current infection), as both are important to track. Measure other symptoms at the same time (temperature, cough, etc.) to improve diagnostics and to look for asymptomatic cases. Include quick interviews regarding social distancing measures taken, to see what is actually working. Repeat positive tests to prevent false results (possibly repeat all tests twice, if accuracy is still an issue). Follow up positive tests closely - how long do they stay positive, do they test positive again after recovering, how many end up in the hospital, and how many die? Stratify sampling by region - Coast, Piedmont, Mountains, 1000+ each (exact numbers TBD). Also stratify by race, and by rural vs. urban. Make participation voluntary, but heavily incentivize cooperation, for example by providing free medical care for those who test positive and lack health coverage. Conduct drive-through testing to minimize protective equipment use, but bring tests to those people who lack transport. Repeat random tests weekly to establish baselines and look for trends. Lastly, share all results with the public in real time!</p>
04/20/2020 08:13 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Pastor Thomas Kakadelis	<p>Please get our state and local businesses open. Have them use wisdom and safety measures to do so. Please allow churches to begin services again using guidelines and safety measures. Warnings and capacity of buildings can all be incorporated. At least let churches gather in the church parking lots. Thanks so much! Pastor Tom Kakadelis Pinehurst, NC 28374</p>
04/20/2020 08:22 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Reopen NC Tracie Marsh	<p>We need NC open immediately. Our rights need to be protected! There are better ways to protect the vulnerable without infringing on the rights of everyone else who needs to provide for our families!</p>
04/20/2020 08:34 PM	Education Working Group	Lisa Wilhoit	<p>Reopen NC now</p>
04/20/2020 08:55 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Norman Loewenthal	<p>In light of the coronavirus crisis it is essential that voting by mail become more accessible. It should include free return mail postage. Increasing the accessibility of voting by mail will help to assure the accuracy and reliability of the voting process. In light of the current crisis conditions, which are likely to persist for some time to come, improved voting by mail will also avoid a situation in which people are faced with making a choice between their health and one of their most fundamental rights, that is, the right to vote.</p>
04/20/2020 09:00 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Karen Matson	<p>I want to go on record that NC needs to ReOpen! You are fining folks who's businesses you have shut down, people need their jobs. The curve is flattened and hospitals are EMPTY! Friends don't let friends go bankrupt. SC and GA are re-opening. NC needs to as well or you can kiss dollars waiting to be spent goodbye as NC citizens flock to those states. Thank you</p>
04/20/2020 09:06 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Jessica Ruegg	<p>As a school counselor and mental health provider, I have seen many NC youth and families suffer because they don't have health insurance. Since school is closed, I have not seen</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>these kids to know how they are surviving the Covid 19 crisis. Expanding Medicaid would allow NC teenagers to receive much needed dental and mental health care and reduce the burden they place on already struggling rural hospitals by getting all of their medical care in emergency departments. If you could meet my 19-year-old client who is regularly assumed to be a meth user because his teeth are black with decay or my former student whose constant colds, fevers and stomach bugs could never be addressed by her doctor because she never saw the same doctor twice in the ER, you would agree that Medicaid should be expanded to cover kids like these. Covid 19 has made the public aware of the dilemmas faced by uninsured people, but the suffering of kids and families has been there all along. Please use this moment of greater public awareness to expand Medicaid to more of those who need it.</p> <p>Thank you for your service to the people of our state.</p>
04/20/2020 09:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Ruthanne Mashchenko	<p>I am a democrat and live in Mecklenburg County, North Carolina. I am proud of this state and my county for taking Covid-19 seriously and protecting our public health. There are many plans that have been put in place in NC during this month of shutdown, preparing as well as is possible for a surge of patients that will come. Our hospitals are currently well below capacity in beds, vents and icu's. We also have hotels, dorms and outdoor temporary hospitals that can now handle more than our current open capacity. I urge you to get the proper protective gear for our brave, competent and invaluable health care workers.</p> <p>It is time to open up on May 1st, with reasonable social distancing, so that those who are able, can earn a living to feed, house and clothe their families and not be forced into a dangerous squalor from which we may all never escape. We cannot live hidden until there is a vaccine, if there even will be a vaccine. We have made the best plan under the circumstances and now we must be brave, while protecting and still allowing the elderly, immunocompromised, etc. to stay quarantined. We can't go around this disease, we can't continue to hide away from it, we must be allowed go through it and hope and trust that our added capacity can contain the coming surge.</p>
04/20/2020 09:10 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Terry Naber	Open the economy
04/20/2020 09:11 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Marilynne Herbert	I urge the House Select Committee on Covid:19 to work toward passing critically needed Medicaid Expansion legislation in this session. It is important to provide health care to all NC residents to help stem the spread of this potentially deadly virus. Preventive medicine has the possibility of avoiding catastrophic consequences in the future.
04/20/2020 09:42 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Jennifer Barber	I am requesting that North Carolina allow all businesses to reopen on April 29, 2020 and that the stay-at-home mandate end on April 29, 2020.
04/20/2020 10:07 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Bryon Prevatte	As a tax payer and small business owner I am concerned that the country is still in a lock down. Original models and projections over estimated the number of covid 19 cases and deaths. Knowing we are not living the scenario that was predicted I feel it is time to lift the restrictions and allow the quarantine to end. There is no justifications to alter or change the upcoming election.
04/20/2020 10:14 PM	Economic Support	The Most Wonderful	Ladies, Gents, as a 43 year old woman, bartender in my home town of Southern Pines I

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Working Group	Evans Carter	<p>just wanted to report that I finally received my very first Unempolymnt EBT card and what relief that \$59.00 brought with it. Fifty-nine U.S. Dollars. We did our part on hours notice. Y'all did \$59 in a month AND y'all still have jobs.</p> <p>I've been employed and therefore paying taxes in North Carolina since I was 13 years old and I tend bar so I can care for my mother who has many ailments, one being vascular dementia. What the hell do I do with \$59.00?</p> <p>And no I haven't received my stimulus check yet either but I can't wait to thank President Trump for having the heart to know he'd have to prop up the states unemployment while the system can pull its head out of its ass again.</p> <p>Holler if y'all need help</p> <p>Evans Carter 910-691-8454</p>
04/20/2020 10:20 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Marcee Silver	<p>North Carolina is weaker as a state and as individuals as long as we have such high numbers of uninsured adults. Especially since so many of these folks are working to support the economy by putting themselves at risk of getting COVID - 19. Accepting federal funding to expand Medicaid would not only protect these ESSENTIAL workers on whom we all depend, it would protect the rest of us who will eventually come in contact with them. I hope you will decide to accept federal funding and expand Medicaid as soon as possible.</p>
04/20/2020 10:31 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Heather Lutz	<p>Please re-open North Carolina. We own 2 small businesses which are "non-essential " and have laid off everyone. We CAN NOT stay in business with zero revenue. My employees are begging to work and I'm at a loss for words because we have no control over our privately owned businesses. Please let us take the risk to work.</p>
04/20/2020 10:36 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mr. Mack Cyr	<p>Keep NC safe! Keep NC closed except for essential employees. Maybe consider reopening restaurants WITH strict rules like no alcohol served on-site.</p>
04/20/2020 10:38 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Miss Bethany Brannon	<p>Reopen North Carolina! While I understand Covid 19 is a terrible illness it is also vital that we reopen for the economy. Those that are high risk and showing symptoms should stay home. There is sickness and disease in life and there will be new illnesses in years to come—does that mean we live in fear and shut everything down—no. Does it mean we should be wise, practice good hygiene, and stay home if sick—yes. It is not the job of the government to tell me when I can go to the store and who I am able to spend time with. I have the right as a free citizen to make those decisions for myself. Please remember, we the people have the right to make these choices.</p>
04/20/2020 10:54 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Mary Shirley	<p>We need to reopen our economy. It is not about money versus lives ,it is lives versus lives. Reopen they way they were closed. Open the so called non essential including our right to worship together. Then the restaurants. Those who are high risk may continue to stay at home if they choose and continue withholds and masks.. I have worked the entire time closely with the public .People want to get back to work and return to normal. Stop infringing on our rights. Businesses are suffering. People are struggling. Enough fear mongering.</p>
04/20/2020 10:58 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Carolyn Hershey	<p>It is time to throw the doors open to NC business and end the stay at home order now. According to the NCDHHS site there are only 373 people even hospitalized in the entire state with COVID -19. To continue to destroy our economy when the panic and restrictions have proven to be a far overreaction only continues to prove the Governor and leading officials have greater concern for their own political agendas than for the good and well</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/20/2020 11:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Lilian Wainer	<p>being of "we the people". Make no mistake we the people will remember on Election Day.</p> <p>It's time to open up the economy including schools as soon as possible. My daughter is being denied a complete education when at this point it's not necessary any more. Our hospital system has not and will not be overwhelmed if we open up the economy with the measures outlined by the Federal Government. Less than 25% of our ICU beds available for COVID-19 patients has been used at its peak in NC. Everyone is aware of the measures we need to follow at this point. I'm sure people who are at high risk will continue to voluntarily quarantine and be careful as much as possible. But there is no reason to not allow people in low risk populations to come back to work on a voluntary basis. People can make their own decisions regarding their own lives. Please go to the first phase this week! Then to phase 2 in 2 weeks or less. Do not deny my daughter her right to an education!</p>
04/21/2020 12:24 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Jessica King	<p>Opening the economy is dangerous in my opinion, Working in the health care field as an immunocomprised person and mother of 3 children, 2 elementary students 1 in high school with autism. The general public, at least here in Onslow county, are not being responsible. People first need to follow social distancing. I see less than 1/4 of people while out grocery shopping keeping distance, less than that are wearing a face covering or mask. If we could actual enforce these recommended social distancing measures, get people to wear masks and stop bringing their entire family to the grocery stores, then we could begin to open up the economy slowly. But these measures need to actually be enforced. It's believed by many in the medical field that there could be a resurgence in the fall. I understand so many are out of work. We need to proceed with caution. Another concern as people begin to go back to work, is a possible rise in pediatric cases. I am thankful our governor closed schools as quickly as he did. Many children live with Grandparents, or are babysat by Grandparents during after school hours before parents arrive home from their work day. This puts our higher risk population at risk. Young children are not the best at proper hand washing and distancing from their peers. Kids share everything. I have been working from home approximately a week before schools were closed due to being immunocomprised.</p> <p>Once we can enforce all the recommended safety measures, then we can slowly open up the economy. Our case load of covid-19 have been low compared to places such as Washington and New York. That was due to the rapid and smart decision-making of our state government. My children's schools, specifically Summersill Elementary, has done a wonderful job at coming up with a proper plan to educate our children during this crisis. My children have live classes online with their teachers daily. Children are not immune to the destruction of this virus. Children, even healthy young people are dying. Opening the economy too soon, without proper enforced measures in place is putting our people in danger. I worry that the general public is not taking this virus seriously. I worry of unnecessary deaths. Please continue to make the smart choices are state government has thru this pandemic.</p>
04/21/2020 12:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Voter ID not mail in voti Brian Blazeovich	<p>We the people on NC voted for Voter ID. If all people will be able to get vaccinated for COVID, then they can register. If people can shop, they can vote in person. I am against mail in voting.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/21/2020 05:22 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Richard Herrell	RE-OPEN NC!!!!!!
04/21/2020 05:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Donna Chance	Dear Sir, I feel dismayed that a few states are reopening too soon. I feel that reopening while covid19 cases continue to rise is dangerous to the health and economy. I would much rather see NC wait until after the peak to reopen. Doing so will save lives and help our economy in the long-term. I thank you in advance for putting the health of NC citizens first.
04/21/2020 05:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		Expanding Medicaid is an after thought. Americans are dying w/no health insurance. Trump sign they were no long required to have it. EXPAND Medicaid ..FOR ALL
04/21/2020 05:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rose Gerl	Please keep the NC stay at home order in place. With coronavirus continuing to rise, our state is not ready to reopen. Doing so too quickly would backfire and overwhelm our health care system. That group pushing to reopen NC has no idea how dangerous that virus is. They do not understand that the shutdown is temporary. Reopening too quickly would jeopardize the lives on every person in this state.
04/21/2020 06:47 AM	Education Working Group	James Reynolds	Vote by mail should be allowed for all NC residents.
04/21/2020 07:26 AM	Health Care Working Group	Kathy Carter	I request that Medicaid be expanded for our state.
04/21/2020 07:28 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Mary Marshall	Please do not open North Carolina up too soon. We have an obligation to protect our health care workers as well as the citizens of N.C. Thank you. Mary and Terry Marshall King, N.C.
04/21/2020 07:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Amanda Haskett	REOPEN NC NOW!!! The governor's overreach of power at this time is going to cost us to loose our vacation rental properties!!! We are hardworking, law-abiding tax payers from Jones County that invested our hard earned money into real estate in Carteret County, more specifically an oceanfront vacation rental duplex. We are now facing the loss of that property, our investment, and ruin of our credit all due to the tyrannical actions of our governor. There has to be something that can be done to stop him from further ruining our economy and thousands of lives in NC! Please do something before we are forced to try and sell our investment properties and/or face foreclosure/bankruptcy.
04/21/2020 07:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	2000 Richard Haskett	REOPEN NC NOW!!! The governor's overreach of power at this time is going to cost us to loose our vacation rental properties!!! We are hardworking, law-abiding tax payers from Jones County that invested our hard earned money into real estate in Carteret County, more specifically an oceanfront vacation rental duplex.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			We are now facing the loss of that property, our investment, and ruin of our credit all due to the tyrannical actions of our governor. There has to be something that can be done to stop him from further ruining our economy and thousands of lives in NC! Please do something before we are forced to try and sell our investment properties and/or face foreclosure/bankruptcy.
04/21/2020 08:11 AM	Health Care Working Group	Claudia Lange	I want to encourage you in the NCGA in the strongest possible language to use science, facts, and an abundance of CAUTION when deciding when to re-open North Carolina's economy. I understand more than most the hardship of a closed economy. I was laid off BEFORE the COVID 19 crisis. I am also going through a divorce at the same time. This crisis has made a horrible situation all but impossible to find a job. Combine that with the people who still have jobs but must risk their lives and health and that of their families when they go to work each day. We have the possibility of getting sick with a deadly illness, which is now, according to Dr. Mandy Cohen, the leading cause of death in the United States. As a health care professional, I am extremely concerned with the physical and also mental health effects the pandemic is causing. These effects will be long term if the re-opening is not done correctly. Rockingham county is reporting that their cases have stemmed from a single church where people gathered and the virus spread. We simply cannot afford to get this wrong.
04/21/2020 09:06 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Ashley Lorance	By not expanding Medicaid, NC is putting more lives at risk. We see so many minorities dying due to underlying health conditions that probably could have been managed had they had access to Medicaid. If NC truly cares about people not dying from this disease and shutting down businesses to protect lives, what makes other diseases so different? The people of NC deserve Medicaid expansion, not only for this crisis, but for the future as well.
04/21/2020 09:14 AM	Health Care Working Group	Kathy Wheeler	Please do NOT lift stay at home orders yet. Please keep our state safe by listening only to the scientists and medical professionals. Let's sacrifice a little longer by staying home, to give us a better chance of beating this virus. Do NOT give in to protesters who endanger all of us. PLEASE be smart in these decisions.
04/21/2020 09:24 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Angela K	Reopen NC May 1st with social distancing restrictions. North Carolinians have done a great job flattening the curve and you can trust us to continue to do what we need to go back to work safely.
04/21/2020 09:50 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Sybil Helms	Please reopen North Carolina so people can work and take care of our families!
04/21/2020 09:52 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Chris West	Open up NC!!!! You are crushing our economy and small businesses!!!
04/21/2020 10:01 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	RN Meghan Crivello	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S. 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.
04/21/2020 10:03 AM	Health Care Working Group	DO Brent Hutson	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S. 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/21/2020 10:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	DR. Anthony Caprio	<p>be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.</p> <p>I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.</p> <p>I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S> 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.</p>
04/21/2020 10:05 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr Michael Eisenberg	<p>I wish you had told your below comments to the people from Reopen NC, they're putting all our lives in jeopardy.</p> <p>In accordance with the latest guidance from the Center for Disease Control and the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, the House Select Committee on Covid-19 and subcommittees will largely meet remotely, not in person, to minimize the gathering of Members and staff. While there is extremely limited seating in room 1228, members of the public are requested to comply with the guidance from the North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services and the Centers for Disease Control by listening remotely. The public will be able to listen to a live stream audio via the NCGA committee website link by using committee room number 1228 of the Legislative Building.</p>
04/21/2020 10:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.
04/21/2020 10:09 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Wanda Casey	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.
04/21/2020 10:09 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S> 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.
04/21/2020 10:10 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Joan Hennessy	<p>Dear Governor Cooper,</p> <p>We need to stay vigilant and continue your stay-at-home order in order to keep us safe and healthy. This is no time to open our state. We must remain focused on the advice of our health care doctors and scientists. At this time, social distancing is the only weapon we have to stop the spread of this deadly virus. I am 85 years old and my husband is going on 86. I will not let him out of the house to go to the store and shop or to the bank or to the pharmacy. I am the one doing all of the chores wearing a mask and gloves and following all of the guidelines. There are those out there who are not protecting themselves and are a danger to all of us who are. I am not ready to call it quits. No way. Not from this virus. Please make it a law that all those people in the food industry must wear masks and gloves when serving us in the deli departments, the vegetable and fruit departments, etc. My community is making face masks for our hospital because there is a shortage of masks. I sit at my sewing machine every day and make masks for the home owners who need them so they can feel secure and safe when shopping. Please stay strong for all of us, and do not open our State Until you know people can be properly tested and sent back</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/21/2020 10:10 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Pastor Jim Kohr	<p>to work safely and you can be sure that this virus will not get out of control again. God Bless us all in this time of crisis.</p> <p>The results of continued shut down is going to be devastating. As a pastor I am concerned about the increase in suicide, depression, substance abuse, and other problems that will result. I also am concerned about the inequality with which the governor is treating churches. Why can't churches have more than ten meeting when other "essential businesses" can have twenty percent capacity. This inequality must be stopped immediately. Thank you.</p>
04/21/2020 10:16 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs Cortney S	<p>Please keep the state on minimal manning until we are 100 percent sure that this thing is handled.</p> <p>Expand Medicaid, it is the right thing to do.</p> <p>Legalize Marijuana, immediately- to help pay for it. Release those with non violent offenses (including marijuana) from the jails to help protect that population- they are still people too.</p> <p>Relook at small businesses that were forced to close. Allow one person at a time with a barber/hair stylist; there is definitely a happy medium here that I think we can get closer too.</p> <p>Expand Medicaid Legalize Marijuana Help our small businesses Keep us safe.</p> <p>Thank you for all you do, I know this isn't easy.</p> <p>Regards, Cortney</p>
04/21/2020 10:16 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Henry Burke	<p>I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I am the Medical Director of a large Palliative Medicine program in a large health system. We are only 1 of 4 states left in the country that require both. It seriously hampers the ability to complete Advance Directives in the hospital setting, where most are done now and are more pertinent to the patients medical situation. Please help us provide the highest quality medical care by aligning treatment plans with patient goals as guided by their Advance Directives. Thank you!</p>
04/21/2020 10:18 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr Henry Burke	<p>I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S> 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives." This will significantly improve our ability to complete advance directives during this crisis and limit healthcare worker exposure and risk. Thank you!</p>
04/21/2020 10:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Ms. Catherine Hall	<p>I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. Please</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		remove the undue burden of having to obtain a notary AND two witnesses. It is important that all NC residents have ability to complete their advance directive documents, especially during COVID-19. The current law restricts access to many segments of citizens.
04/21/2020 10:24 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs. Eileen Rice	Please re-open gyms, hair salons, churches, and all the other entities that were shut down. We need to do so for the sake of a healthy economy.
04/21/2020 10:24 AM	Health Care Working Group	James Sylvester	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I am a Registered Nurse working in a hospital-based Palliative Care team. The current requirement of two witnesses AND a notary presents a considerable obstacle to completing Advance Directives while hospitalized.
04/21/2020 10:33 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Amy Mohan	Hi, I'm writing to voice my support for maintaining our stay-at-home orders until we have a solid testing plan in place. I oppose the idea of "re-opening" the state while the rate of infection is still fairly high. Please follow the advice of public health experts, not protesters. Thank you!
04/21/2020 10:41 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Emily Reeve	We must follow science in NC and support Governor Cooper in the Stay at Home order. We need much more testing capacity, tracing, and surgical gowns. We are not there yet, by any stretch. If we open too soon, we will destroy all our efforts so far and make things worse. Please be patient and thoughtful in your decision making for the people of NC and do not succumb to pressure from groups who want to reopen prematurely. We all want to reopen. No Joke. But we have to get this right. Thanks, Emily Reeve
04/21/2020 10:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Kotaya Griffith	I'm a nurse practitioner and I ask that you support these changes to help us navigate these difficult conversations with our patients and their family. The main goal is to support patient wishes and we are able to do this through the utilization of advance directives. I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S. 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives."
04/21/2020 10:47 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Charles Hildenbrand	As a retired citizen of North Carolina and at high risk due to the Corona virus, I support the State Board of Elections position to make absentee ballots more available and easier to use. I support more early voting centers. I request that the state Legislature insures the funds to plan for safe elections for all our citizens.
04/21/2020 10:53 AM	Economic Support Working Group	MS Laurie Fox	Tim Moore, Chairman, NCGA Covid-19 Committee, Attn: Economic Recovery Subcommittee Dear Chairman Moore, During the Covid-19 disaster, we want to ensure that the NCGA makes every effort to help small business owners throughout the state, because they are central to our economy and communities. Small Businesses provide employment to half of all Americans. Brookings Institute estimates that more than half of them are in serious danger of closing for good as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. Furthermore, a Main Street America survey

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>estimated one third of the businesses with less than 20 employees were in danger of closing for good within two months if they didn't receive substantial help.</p> <p>NCGA must develop a disaster recovery plan that can bring Small Businesses back as quickly as possible when the medical experts say that it is safe to do so. We know that the virus has the potential to recycle with devastating effects again if we reopen too soon.</p> <p>At the Federal-level, the Paycheck Protection program ran out of funds in two weeks. And Congress continues its partisan fighting. Small Businesses have been receiving help on a first come, first serve basis. The NCGA needs to provide Small Businesses with immediate assistance along with supporting paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all impacted workers, including "gig workers".</p> <p>Further, the Washington Post reported on 4/15/20 in the article "Americans love small businesses is all talk" that "in a number of European countries businesses received payroll supports, meaning the government essentially took a percentage of their payrolls, freezing the economy in place so they could reopen when the danger passed." We are requesting that the NCGA provide some variation of this approach in NC.</p>
04/21/2020 10:57 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms Laurie Fox	<p>Tim Moore, Chairman, NCGA Covid-19 Committee, Attn: Economic Recovery Subcommittee</p> <p>During the Covid-19 disaster, we want to ensure that the NCGA makes every effort to help small business owners throughout the state, because they are central to our economy and communities. Small Businesses provide employment to half of all Americans. Brookings Institute estimates that more than half of them are in serious danger of closing for good as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic crisis. Furthermore, a Main Street America survey estimated one third of the businesses with less than 20 employees were in danger of closing for good within two months if they didn't receive substantial help.</p> <p>NCGA must develop a disaster recovery plan that can bring Small Businesses back as quickly as possible when the medical experts say that it is safe to do so. We know that the virus has the potential to recycle with devastating effects again if we reopen too soon.</p> <p>At the Federal-level, the Paycheck Protection program ran out of funds in two weeks. And Congress continues its partisan fighting. Small Businesses have been receiving help on a first come, first serve basis. The NCGA needs to provide Small Businesses with immediate assistance along with supporting paid sick days, family leave, and full unemployment benefits for all impacted workers, including "gig workers".</p> <p>Further, the Washington Post reported on 4/15/20 in the article "Americans love small businesses is all talk" that "in a number of European countries businesses received payroll supports, meaning the government essentially took a percentage of their payrolls, freezing the economy in place so they could reopen when the danger passed." We are requesting that the NCGA provide some variation of this approach in NC.</p>
04/21/2020 11:01 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms Laurie Fox	<p>Tim Moore, Chairman, NCGA Covid-19 Committee, Healthcare and Economic Recovery Subcommittees</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>The Covid-19 pandemic highlights the disastrous problem of food scarcity for vulnerable people in North Carolina. We request the NCGA develop legislation to ensure that all children who receive free meals at school continue to be fed throughout this crisis. Also, we ask the NCGA to adopt and implement a disaster food scarcity program within a human rights framework. This program should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ? ensure all North Carolinians have access to food through local food banks, ? ensure government accountability, ? actively work with affected populations, ? ensure food security analytic monitoring against National action plans that also account for vulnerability and discrimination, and, ? include stronger connections between policies and health outcomes. <p>This disaster food scarcity program should incorporate the right-to-food approach, review and resolve challenges to implementing it, and suggest actions for implementing it in a timely fashion before the next emergency.</p>
04/21/2020 11:15 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Julie Brown	I write to urge you to follow the advice of medical experts in deciding when and how to reopen our economy. This virus is deadly and the pandemic is still in an early stage. For the sake of our citizens it is imperative that we proceed with extreme caution. Thank you.
04/21/2020 11:26 AM	Health Care Working Group	Dr Bridget Earle	We need to improve the opportunities to get advance directives filled out in the current COVID 19 crisis. a solution to have two virtual witnesses only and waive notary attendance.
04/21/2020 11:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Janet McDougal	I am support of re opening NC by May 1st. Without residents being required to under go testing.
04/21/2020 11:36 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. David Hainline	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I also support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S> 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives."
04/21/2020 11:40 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Sharelle Hatley	I'm in support of Advance Directives only requiring either a notary or 2 witnesses for completion of documents.
04/21/2020 11:40 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Michelle Kirby	<p>I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.</p> <p>I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S> 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives."</p>
04/21/2020 11:40 AM	Health Care Working Group	Former Asst. Sec. NCDENR Dewey Botts	DON'T OPEN TOO SOON. Follow history and SCIENCE. This can not be a partisan issue. IT IS....LIFE...or...DEATH!!!
04/21/2020 11:42 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Jessica McComb	I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S> 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		
04/21/2020 11:49 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Adrienne Stephens	Mail-in voting, please! Move to this as soon as possible to increase participation and safeguard against scrambling in a crisis such as the current one. Thank you!
04/21/2020 11:52 AM	Health Care Working Group	Jennifer Hoesman	Please consider allowing the completion of Advance Directives in NC to require only a notary OR two witnesses and not both.
04/21/2020 11:56 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Jasmin Johansen	<p>I think that we as voters should not have to choose between our health and our vote. Please consider the following points when it comes to 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. 4. Assume the costs for mailing in an absentee ballot.
04/21/2020 11:56 AM	Health Care Working Group	Judith Lynch	<p>Since we don't yet have Medicare for all, Medicaid should be extended to those who rely on assistance. It will bring medical coverage, federal funds and jobs to NC. And boy, do we need it! And don't cut Social Security, food stamps, and any other program that protects the most vulnerable in our society.</p> <p>Power to the People!</p>
04/21/2020 12:19 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rev Greg Hathaway	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I also support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S. 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives."
04/21/2020 12:34 PM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Paula Pitman	I fully support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. This is a great opportunity to reduce a barrier that consistently presents itself to those who need and want to complete their AHCD
04/21/2020 12:38 PM	Health Care Working Group	Janelle McCallum	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.
04/21/2020 12:41 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Christine Lau	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents. I am a palliative care clinician serving patients who have serious, often chronic illness. Currently there is no way for advance directives to be done in the hospital or facility setting because without visitors there is nobody to serve as a witness. In the home setting we are unable to get notaries. Having the option for either would give us the ability to be proactive and

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			help those with serious and chronic illness complete these advance care planning documents which needs to be a priority. I see this being of great value even after this COVID crisis as it removes barriers to document completion.
04/21/2020 12:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Erin O'Reilly	I am commenting in response to the 'movement' pushing to reopen NC. We obviously cannot reopen things until our testing capacity is much higher along with our hospital capacity and contact tracing ability. Testing capacity is linked to the availability of PPE of which we do not have enough. So, we clearly have a lot of work to do before things can start 'opening' here in NC. Please do not reopen things in NC until our public health officials agree it is the right time.
04/21/2020 12:54 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Erin O'Reilly	I fully support having mail in ballots as an option for NC for the upcoming Fall election (and future elections as well!). I hope the General Assembly will work together, using the money allocated by the Federal Government, to make this happen for the Fall. We are unlikely to be out of the woods when it comes to the risks of the viral pandemic. Thus, we need to start planning for mail in ballots. It is the responsible thing to do to protect public health and protect the voting rights of all.
04/21/2020 01:02 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dale Dawson	Because of this pandemic, we need to be VERY careful not to circumvent our election process or the integrity of that process. If the argument is that the pandemic is not as bad as thought and we should reopen the state of NC, then why are these changes needed? If you do away with the notary requirement, then you do away with a level of protection for the integrity of the vote. The notary requirement is a vehicle to certify that the absentee voter is the person who is actually exercised their constitutional right to vote. Without it we could have people that should not be voting, voting. If someone wants to do an absentee vote, why should our tax dollars go to providing self-addressed, stamped envelopes (our tax dollars are already being used to send the absentee ballot)? The absentee voter is saving time and money by not having to go vote in person, so the cost of the stamp and envelope should be the cost paid by the individual voter. Assuring the integrity of the elections should take the biggest highest priority!
04/21/2020 01:15 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rev. Terri Vilagos	I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.
04/21/2020 01:29 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Reopen NC Jessica Elstrom	Reopen NC! We are healthy enough to be open and start phase 1. People want to get back to work and take care of their own families. Driving us into an economic depression and stripping people of their rights is not the way!
04/21/2020 01:36 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Entrepreneur Keat Perkins	<p>Okay. I keep seeing protest for reopening NC, and I have to say my two cents as a business owner...do NOT lump me in by saying all business owners want to be open right now.</p> <p>Yes, I would love to be open to have people come in, but ONLY under normal circumstances. This is NOT NORMAL. It's a pandemic.</p> <p>I'm not sure how many people know this, but I am diabetic. And this puts me into the HIGH-RISK category. I am managing it, but I must be more careful then most.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>Has anyone else been watching the number of cases in NC grow? I am a believer that a fair percentage of those numbers are test that are finally going through. But that still doesn't mean that a fair percentage are NEW cases.</p> <p>I apologize for throwing this out there. But I had to make my point known. Do not jeopardize the health of others. Stay safe! We will have things open again. And there will be gatherings, and face to face meetings! But we do need to curb this.</p>
04/21/2020 01:47 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Elizabeth Brazas	<p>We appreciate your leadership for North Carolina during this health and economic crisis. In a matter of weeks, we have seen lives and communities changed, and we are grateful for your steady and compassionate guidance.</p> <p>As the scale of the impact of the pandemic grew, The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina (CFWNC) activated its Emergency and Disaster Response Fund. CFWNC, Dogwood Health Trust and WNC Bridge Foundation provided seed funding, and a regional coalition came together as AMY Wellness Foundation, Biltmore Lake Charitable Fund, The Glass Foundation, Mission Health HCA Healthcare – North Carolina Division, Nantahala Health Foundation, Pisgah Health Foundation, Ramble Charitable Fund and Wells Fargo supported the effort. Members of the public and CFWNC fundholders have also generously contributed, and gifts to the Fund now exceed \$1 million.</p> <p>The Fund provides flexible resources to organizations with deep roots in communities and experience addressing basic needs and filling public health gaps. Nonprofits apply using a simple, expedited process with grants awarded on a rolling basis. As of April 15, we have announced four rounds of grants, one per week, totaling more than \$850,000.</p> <p>More than 55% of these grants, 63 awards totaling \$468,600, supported the provision of food or food and basic services to vulnerable people. As you know, hunger was a pressing issue across our state long before the COVID-19 crisis. According to our nonprofit partners, the need for emergency food is expected to grow dramatically in the coming weeks, with some food providers reporting up to a 70% increase in clients in just the past three weeks.</p> <p>Public schools, local governments and nonprofits are increasingly burdened with solving society's most intractable problems. Philanthropy has a role, but cannot provide the necessary, comprehensive response. We write to urge you to support the following recommendations of the North Carolina Anti-Hunger Coalition:</p> <p>We ask the State to provide an additional \$6 million in immediate funding to the North Carolina Feeding America food banks. This funding must be flexible to allow food banks to purchase the additional food required to respond to the crisis due to the closing of schools and layoffs caused by the appropriate government-required closings. In addition, these funds should help support the management, storage, and transportation of these critical food resources as well as additional labor required to manage the growing need and the loss of community volunteers (a large pool of which are older adults) resulting from social distancing requirements.</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>To support our farmers, we ask the State to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • work with local officials to ensure farmers markets remain open; • allocate additional resources to help farmers comply with CDC recommendations to ensure the health and safety of farmworkers; • advocate for a federal disaster declaration, and do so based on lost revenue rather than production losses; • utilize funds for a Disaster Loss Program similar to the one instituted for losses caused by Hurricanes Michael and Florence, and allow emergency payments to be based on documentation of revenue for farms that do not have crop reports on file with FSA; • buy down interest rates for federal emergency loans; • create no-interest loan pools to cover the interest of FSA emergency loans; and • create bridge loan programs. <p>We ask the State to continue to submit waiver requests to USDA to maximize SNAP and WIC funding and flexibility and take other actions to expand access to SNAP and WIC. Specifically, we request that the State:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provide emergency supplemental SNAP benefits to any participating SNAP household; • submit all available waiver requests to USDA in order to take advantage of any flexibility as permitted by current policy and future federal relief packages; and • provide funding to implement the Elderly Supplemental Assistance Project (ESAP) as soon as possible. <p>We ask the State to take the action necessary to fully operationalize the flexibility and expansion afforded by the federal COVID-19 response to safely and effectively distribute food assistance in alignment with social distancing requirements, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • operationalize P-EBT by providing meal-replacement benefits through SNAP for households with children who would otherwise receive free- or reduced-price meals, including working with the Department of Public Instruction to expedite the provision of the benefit to children who are not currently SNAP recipients; • provide funding to ensure the capacity each county needs to process new applications and fully administer SNAP and WIC programs while employees work remotely, and funding for frontline employees to continue service while limiting face-to-face contact with the public; • support School Nutrition feeding sites to provide infant- and toddler-appropriate meals and whole milk for children who rely on meals provided at their childcare center, including those who are on the waiting list for the childcare subsidy; • automatically recertify those individuals who, as a result of an inability to comply with SNAP work requirements, are scheduled to lose the benefit before the Families First Coronavirus Response Act temporary suspension begins on April 1st; • make real-time eligibility determinations without regard to recent income sources, as many individuals have swiftly lost all income due to widespread business closures; • remove state-level barriers to the elimination of asset tests; and • provide support to SNAP administrators in allowing SNAP recipients to order groceries

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
			<p>online to pick up, including allowing purchase of food and essential non-food items (like toilet paper) by splitting benefits and cash or charge payments in the same order.</p> <p>We ask the State to provide funding to child nutrition programs, providing maximum flexibility for the funds to be used to purchase food or for general operational needs.</p> <p>We ask the State to close the health insurance coverage gap to ensure all North Carolinians have access to care.</p> <p>We ask the State to take steps to ensure all North Carolinians have access to broadband and technology so they may access food assistance programs and purchase groceries online, or continue to work or study from home. Specifically, we ask the State to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • amend funding for the GREAT Program to provide \$30 million over 5 years; • pass the FIBER NC Act to remove barriers that prevent or inhibit local governments from partnering with private providers; • ensure all students have access to a computer; and • increase access to technology for small businesses adjusting to virtual services. <p>It is impossible to predict the long-term individual and societal consequences of a crisis that has not yet peaked, but we know it will take time and a coordinated public-private effort. Our regional funders collaborative was able to respond quickly to serve the public interest; we now look to State action to support the needs of our most vulnerable citizens and plan for a united future.</p> <p>Many thanks,</p> <p>Lori Bailey, Executive Director, Nantahala Health Foundation Elizabeth Brazas, President, The Community Foundation of Western North Carolina Scott Buchanan, President & CEO, WNC Bridge Foundation Robert A. "Lex" Green, III, President, Pisgah Health Foundation Neil Gurney, President, Gateway Wellness Foundation Luke Howe, Executive Director, AMY Wellness Foundation Brian Myers, Chief Strategy Officer, Dogwood Health Trust Robin Tindall, CEO and Executive Director, Highlands Cashiers Health Foundation</p>
04/21/2020 01:57 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Carol LeCompte	<p>Prior to moving to the Carolinas this past December, I worked for OhioHealth Hospital System in Columbus, Ohio. State law in Ohio allowed either notary OR two witnesses. In my experience, this allowance facilitated the execution of these vitally important documents without compromising their integrity. I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) allowing either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the documents.</p>
04/21/2020 02:19 PM	Health Care Working Group	mrs Amee Stewart	<p>We must expand Medicaid in this state. Covid 19 has really exposed that minorities and people of color have disproportionately been negatively effected. We cannot continue to ignore the poor in their inability to purchase health care insurance imposed by our Legislators.</p>
04/21/2020 02:24 PM	Education Working	Mrs. Amee Stewart	<p>Where are the funds going that generally go towards feeding children free breakfasts and</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Group		lunches? This is not happening currently during the Stay At Home order. Whomever is in charge....these kids are falling through the cracks. HELP THEM!!! The food pantries and volunteers are not set up to handle such overflow of hunger and numbers of people needing food.
04/21/2020 02:26 PM	Health Care Working Group	Tammy Overcash	<p>Thank you for your service to the great state of NC.</p> <p>As a single, self employed women In the nonessential healthcare industry, I am asking for your support in representation in the efforts to reopen our state.</p> <p>I agree that these are uncertain and unsettled times, but feel that using care and some guidelines we can safely begin to move forward with confidence over the fear.</p> <p>Thank you for you time and assistance in this matter.</p> <p>Best Regards</p> <p>Tammy Overcash</p>
04/21/2020 02:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	DANA STANLEY	<p>I volunteer for NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness) and there are people who use our service who are without insurance or who are underinsured. People living with mental illnesses are one of our most vulnerable communities. Expanding Medicaid would ensure that they can get the medical attention that they deserve, particularly during the pandemic. Medicaid also needs to be an option for those who are awaiting being awarded disability and have no insurance in the meantime. Medicaid needs to be expanded, and should have been expanded a long time ago.</p>
04/21/2020 03:00 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Marc Mereyde	<p>Thank you for clearly allowing people to wear face masks in public for the protection of their health and the health of others. Based on what the CDC and the surgeon general have told us:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. We know people with no symptom can carry the virus. 2. We know the virus can be transmitted through droplets. 3. Homemade masks may not fully protect those who wear them but those who wear them can help protect others around them. <p>Homemade masks could help slow down the spread of the virus. They should not be criminalized.</p>