

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

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
04/21/2020 03:08 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Pastor Tim Daniel	I am pastor of New Testament Baptist Church in Kinston, NC. I am very concerned about the economic hardship Governor Cooper's restrictions aren't placing on our community that has also experienced the economic devastation of two floods in the last 3 and 1/2 years. I am also very concerning over the Governors ignoring of freedom of religion expressed in the N.C. constitution, "All persons have a natural and inalienable right to worship Almighty God according to the dictates of their own consciences, and no human authority shall, in any case whatever, control or interfere with the rights of conscience. "
04/21/2020 03:22 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jennifer Williams	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 03:28 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr David Slawson	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 03:31 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Karen Myers	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 03:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr. David Sevier	The NC Serious Illness Coalition, established through the NC Institute of Medicine Task Force on Serious Illness Care, supports the emergency bill proposed by this committee to enable video notarization of documents by licensed notaries in NC. We further support the continuation of this provision through March 1, 2021.  The Coalition additionally supports the emergency bill eliminating the requirement for two witnesses for Advance Health Care Directives and supports its continuation through March 1, 2021.
04/21/2020 04:26 PM	Education Working Group	Economic support group Nancy Donley	Please keep in place our social distancing and use of masks until testing shows we are ready to phase in resuming business and education
04/21/2020 04:47 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Paul Smith	I live near Mars Hill in Madison County and am personally not in need of Medicaid Expansion. But through my local friends and their families I'm aware of struggles of so many residents here to stay healthy after years of working in the heat of the sun or behind the steering wheel of a truck. So many people here have COPD, lung issues and emphysema due to smoking, teeth gone due to lack of good dental care. Medicaid expansion is badly needed by many of these people who lack not only routine medical attention, but also health care routines needed to maintain health.  They are good people.  Now COVID-19 is beginning to surround our county. Currently we are one of the few

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			<p>counties in NC that has not yet had a documented infection. Our County Commissioners and County Health Department deserve full credit for inhibiting the intrusion of COVID into our community. But I know that will change. National trends demonstrate that.</p> <p>Our county commissioners and mayors made an early decision to establish a stay-at-home rule here -- a very smart decision. We need to have another very smart decision made by our representatives in the NC Senate and House. The need for adequate health care has been unavailable to people caught in a health care gap that disqualified them for receiving medical attention. Now that need is expanding wildly across our state. Please respond to their need by making expanded Medicaid available to all who need it in this age of COVID-19.</p> <p>They depend on you and I'm depending on you, Paul Smith</p>
04/21/2020 05:28 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Ms. Catherine Kastleman	<p>Now more than ever, our state needs bold, public policies from the N.C. General Assembly. North Carolina has immediate needs for healthcare and public health support, to protect families from lost work and strengthen our economy. Even as the federal government is needed to provide critical support to our communities, it is essential that state legislators, starting with the House Select Committee on COVID19, advance solutions that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Recognize our fates are intertwined and make bold commitments to support our neighbors' health and well-being</li> <li>- Focus on people first and their need to replace lost income, put food on the table and keep a roof over peoples' heads, and should exclude no person for their identity or immigration status</li> <li>- Commit our collective resources to build systems that will help every person and every community recover and put our state on sounder footing for the future.</li> </ul> <p>Thank you for your consideration.</p>
04/21/2020 05:32 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	John Taylor	The shutdown is a violation of both the NC and US constitutions, pure and simple. This tyrannical action by the government is a direct violation of the oath sworn by our (so-called) public servants. Such actions cannot be allowed to stand.
04/21/2020 05:51 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Meredith Brust	Open NC!
04/21/2020 05:52 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Caren Bullock	Please get our state open for business. Families and business owners are suffering. If the state doesn't open soon, we won't recover for decades.
04/21/2020 05:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	NC christin Reed	Do not re open the state please we are still getting rising numbers we need to get more testing done on everyone to find out if they are infected or not... Do not please do not do not do not re open North Carolina...!!!!!!!
04/21/2020 06:26 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency	Mr Samuel Villegas	Elections are a sacred trust which should be fully protected and secure but fully realized by everyone that is eligible to vote. To that end, everyone should be registered

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	Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>automatically to vote as soon as eligible. Anyone with a North Carolina driver's license or DMV ID should be registered.</p> <p>Many states have years of experience with voting by mail with little or no voter fraud. We should adopt the best practices used by Oregon and other proven leader states but keep the in-person voting for those that need time to adapt. During this time of health crisis, we need to expand the early voting time window to 4 to 6 weeks and the number of locations available to vote. Thoughtful consideration of how to cost-effectively accomplish that objective, keeping in mind that the right to vote is of very high priority vs. cost. [rolling locations and time windows, much like cities do with large item pick up and drive in voting on certain days]</p> <p>Existing absentee rules should be mitigated to allow for one witness or if the BOE can send a 'verified' ballot (like a bank check with the magnetic ID number) to a voter that and can authenticate certain information on the documentation no witness.</p>
04/21/2020 06:29 PM	Health Care Working Group	Kathryn Peaden	I am considered 'essential' as I work in home hospice. I have to be out and do not have the option to be home. I understand concerns of business owners and those suffering economically during this time. However, I do not think that we are at a point to be able to reopen without serious consequences. I do not get a choice on being out during this time and do not feel my health or the health of my patients and their families should be jeopardized, when others can and should be staying at home to help stop this pandemic.
04/21/2020 08:51 PM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Enid Ernsberger	<p>To Whom It May Concern,</p> <p>I am a registered nurse who works in home health. I work with precious people who don't understand the reasoning behind the shutdowns and social distancing. And quite frankly I don't either. I understand infection control. None of my clients that I have worked with over last four years has ever had any of the sicknesses that have gone around. The home health agency that I am affiliated with annually has their employees read and commit to infection control at all times. Soap and water helps to stop the spread of germs. There is no reason for us to be continuing this social distancing and people not be allowed to return to work. It is tyranny on your part to continue this charade. Let North Carolians go back to work!</p>
04/21/2020 09:18 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Velva Jenkins	On behalf of the WCA of the Lower Cape Fear and as the CEO, I am requesting that you consider amending voting rules to give the NC Board of Elections flexibility to respond to emergencies such as pandemics, natural disasters, armed conflict, etc. This can be done by allowing making absentee voting easier by making ballots easier to obtain, and open to everyone eligible to vote; on-line portal for an absentee ballot. Two witnesses during social distancing is unsafe and unrealistic especially for single, older people.
04/21/2020 09:23 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mrs Betsy Patton	The repercussions from the drastic measure to prevent the COVID virus are causing great destruction to our economy. Measures taken based on what we are daily finding to be based on drastically over inflated and erroneous models. As the reality slowly sinks in that the death rate percentages from Corona virus sink the desperation of the unemployed escalates. If your interest is truly in the citizens of this state it's time to put her back to work. As this plays out, when people begin to realize what they have been deprived of using their best intent to protect others and they realize the havoc they have created in other people lives instead what then? Certainly won't help anybody's reelection. PS there

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			is a document given very little consideration today than each of you took an oath to protect actually two documents. The Constitution of the United States and the North Carolina Constitution. How can you possibly be keeping your oath if you allow this to continue. From all indications this virus has played out to be no where as deadly as predicted and yet you've abandoned the Constitution over it.
04/21/2020 10:00 PM	Health Care Working Group	Dr. Eric Chetwynd	If nothing else has convinced our legislature that medicare expansion is needed in our state, I surely hope that CORVID-19 has changed hearts and minds on that issue.
04/21/2020 10:12 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Dr. Eric Chetwynd	We should have paid sick leave for all, just as virtually all other advanced countries have had for years. It make common and economic sense. No sick person should be reporting for work and endangering colleagues and customers. The same I would say for family leave, unemployment and CORVID-19 relief. It is the civilized way to go and studies show a happy and healthy worker is a more productive worker.
04/21/2020 10:20 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Eric Chetwynd	When voting is seen as a threat to one or another party's hold on political power, how is that then a democracy? No, democracy is achieved when everyone, every citizen, has a voice. We should be look for ways to make that easier, not harder, while at the same time, protecting the integrity of the process. Let's put our heads together and better facilitate voting by mail, absent tee voting and free return postage. And free mail in ballot postage be something tax payers can volunteer to support when dong tax returns. We can do this and do it with proper safeguards in place. Up to you.
04/21/2020 10:30 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Rebecca Newsome	Reopen North Carolina!! Now!!
04/21/2020 10:41 PM	Education Working Group	Priscilla Mellon	We need to get our kids back in school. There are children whose lives at home are full of anger, violence, uncertainty a home and the only positive impact they have is school. In addition, what is going to happen next year when these kids were just passed along. They will be half a year behind in school and teachers who can't close the gap created unnecessarily by the governor will lose their jobs. I will gladly let you speak to my son. He's a smart kid, we work with him 6 hours a day on his school work but at the end of the day he will admit he's not learning anything at home. Please protect our children's future
04/21/2020 10:45 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Priscilla Mellon	I have to say the governor is trying to drive out state into the ground. How ml millions of dollars in tax revenue are we losii each week we are shut down. What happens then? What will be cut from the state budget because of the shortfall? I promise the first we hear from him will be education cuts. We need to get our economy reopen in order to close the gap that is being created each day. Every job that provides a family with a paycheck is essential. You cannot tell the public they are not essential because before long they will see that you don't care if they live or die so long as what you did looked good on paper at the time. Please reopen our state. Everyone's job is essential
04/21/2020 11:09 PM	Health Care Working Group	Christin Billings	I work in the medical field. This is America, land of the free and home of the brave. What you're doing is not quarantining. It's tyranny. You are not restricting the movement of the sick, but of everyone. This can not and should not continue. The numbers are not accurate. Stop promoting hysteria and propaganda. Allow those who want to work to so and stop with your Draconian measures. If people want to continue to stay home, they

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			can! But let us choose. You work for us, public servants, not masters. Remember that or you will be replaced come November.
04/22/2020 01:12 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms Sarah Lynn	Please do not yield to pressures to lift restrictions on public gatherings too soon. We owe it to our health care workers and first responders to do everything we can to protect them while they care for the most vulnerable members of our community.
04/22/2020 01:37 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs Annette Kiser	<p>I advocate for the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32A-25.1) to allow either a notary OR two witnesses to sign the advance directive documents. This is vital for patients who are developing life threatening illnesses and have no legal advance healthcare documents in place. Visitor restrictions are impacting the ability to meet current requirements.</p> <p>In addition, 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. Again, due to visitor restrictions and the lack of people able to be at a patient's bedside, remote notarization is needed.</p>
04/22/2020 03:08 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Amanda Vick	All Jobs are essential! Reopen NC!
04/22/2020 06:49 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Deborah Zions	We must have vote by mail contingency plan for the November elections.
04/22/2020 07:00 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Reopen NC! KG	It is time to start opening the state. The NC government is unconstitutionally over reaching and current officials' decisions are solidifying my my choice to vote in new candidates in November. I am a small business owner who is bringing in pennies now because my vendors (who are also small businesses and suffering) cannot do business. The NC are suffering, and it's from the plague of our government, not this virus! Please let the weak and immune compromised, AS WELL as the healthy make our own choice to quarantine at home. You've lost my votes and confidence.
04/22/2020 07:44 AM	Health Care Working Group	RN Juanita Zwiener	I agree there needs to be changes when completing Advance directives thst allows ease and feasibility for patients not only during medical crisis but also when it is difficult to accessing notaries. I would like to see 2 witness be imposed on this statute. By eliminating need for notary it gives patients a ability to get these documents completed quickly to ensure their wishes are conveyed to health care providers and assist them in directing their care .
04/22/2020 07:49 AM	Health Care Working Group	Angela Janssen Keenan	PLEASE allow patients to complete advance directives either with 2 witnesses or a notary. This change should be permanent, not just during COVID. It is very difficult in the hospital to assist patients in completing documents when we need 2 witnesses that are not related to the patient. It makes it unnecessarily complicated for those who need these forms

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04/22/2020 08:44 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Angela Clark	<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>
04/22/2020 08:45 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Erica Frechman	Please consider removal of witnesses for notarization of advance directives during current COVID-19 pandemic. This is also applicable during normal times. This rule is antiquated and is preventative of quality and safety issues for North Carolinians who wish to communicate their end-of-life preferences.
04/22/2020 09:09 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Candice Davies	<p>Hello</p> <p>My name is Candice Lynn Davies and I am a registered voter in Cary NC. I'm writing out of deep concerns for the state (indeed, the nation). Of current concern are the upcoming elections in November and how they might be negatively impacted by the COVID 19 outbreak. I am writing to encourage you to please consider options that might better insure our voting rights are protected, and our ability to exercise our fundamental civic obligation is best enabled.</p> <p>In reading and thinking about this, I hope you will support the following ideas (recommended, as I study, by leading authorities in the field):</p> <p>1) make our absentee vote by mail process more accessible to all voters by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>*increasing public promotion of the absentee vote-by-mail option</li> <li>*ensuring free return mail postage on absentee ballots</li> </ul> <p>2) provide/ empower adequate support and coverage for the polls. I've read that, for a normal election, 25,000 poll workers are needed across our state. I've worked at the polls over the years and know that most folks are my age (64) or even older. This is particularly troubling given the danger COVID 19 represents to my cohort. We must find a way to bring new, less vulnerable folks to the process, as well as insure the safety of ALL folks willing to provide this civic service. I also understand that their compensation is small, given what is asked of them. Can we augment that in any way?</p> <p>3) assure the public of the SAFETY of voting so that they are not too fearful to do so. Do you have protocols in place for adequate sanitizing, social distancing needs etc. in this regard? This is a new kind of crisis calling for innovative and reassuring processes.</p> <p>Thank you so much for considering these concerns. I am sure they are reflective of concerns throughout the nation. We all want to be better civic servants and participation in voting is a fundamental responsibility. NC can, with some forethought and preparation, lead the nation in this regard.</p>
04/22/2020 09:17 AM	Health Care Working Group	Ms. Catherine Wolfe	<p>It is time for the state of North Carolina to expand Medicaid, which offers affordable and high quality health care to those in need. With the onset of COVID-19, it is all the more urgent to expand the program. Many people have lost their jobs and are struggling. Receiving adequate health care should not be one of their concerns. The state continues to lose massive amounts of federal dollars each year by not expanding the program. I work on behalf of low-income families and understand the hardships they face. This is a fundamental need of the residents of the great state of North Carolina and I urge you to</p>



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			step forward and do the right thing for our state. Thank you for your leadership on this issue.
04/22/2020 09:53 AM	Economic Support Working Group	A K	Need to re open the economy in NC. We can do it safely.
04/22/2020 10:03 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mr/ Mark Hainline	<p>I am writing in favor of expanding Medicaid coverage in our state. Please consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Those who are un-insured or under-insured represent a reservoir in which COVID-19 can linger. As long as there is a such a reservoir in our state, all of us are at risk of the disease coming back and wreaking further significant damage.</li> <li>* To refuse to do this leaves substantial Federal funds on the table that could help our state and that it is impossible for us to raise on our own.</li> <li>* The Federal government has increased FMAP, contributing even more funds and making this expansion even easier to support.</li> </ul>
04/22/2020 10:11 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr Mark Hainline	<p>I am writing to support critical economic relief for those impacted by COVID-19. This includes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Paid sick days</li> <li>* Family leave</li> <li>* Full unemployment benefits</li> </ul> <p>Please consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Funding these areas generously helps stabilize our state's workforce and stimulates our economy. If more we limit the damage that COVID-19 does to our economy now, the less we will have to do later to bounce back.</li> <li>* Although it is difficult to forecast, there is at least a significant chance that we will face an extended, deep recession or even a depression. We need to do what we can now to avoid these possibilities.</li> <li>* Cutting taxes rather than funding these programs will do little to help business or people. Until spending rebounds, business will have little income to tax – and without money, of course, people will limit their spending to the minimum. Getting money to people who need it now, and who will spend it now helps them, and it helps business.</li> </ul>
04/22/2020 10:12 AM	Health Care Working Group	Mrs. Traci Mattera	As a Hospice Social Worker assisting patients in their homes with end of life care issues, having the requirement of a Notary Public and two witnesses is extremely binding. This often delays granting an individual's wish while all parties are being gathered. I am originally from Kentucky and have worked hospice care in both Kentucky and Ohio. I was very surprised that North Carolina had a dual requirement unlike, as majority of others states have more fluid yet credible ways of acknowledging one's wishes. I urge you to consider making a change to allow either a Notary Public's signature or two non-related witnesses to enact someone's Advance Directives, such as a Living Will or Health Care Power Attorney. This will allow peace for an individual to know their wishes for care will be documented should they ever be unable to verbally notate.
04/22/2020 10:14 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group		<p>I support the adoption of the initiative relating to Advance Health Care Directives (Statute G.S. 32-A25.1) allowing either a notary or two witnesses to sign the documents.</p> <p>I support adoption of the initiative (Statute G.S 10_b-3 (16) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.</p>

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04/22/2020 10:24 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Tina McClain	Open nc
04/22/2020 10:31 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Heide Coppotelli	I am most especially concerned about the protection of our Democracy by the protection of our system of elections – which requires special provisions to assure that all voters can safely cast their votes in the times of dealing with the challenges of the COVID-19 threats to public health. I fully expect that my elected officials will safeguard this most fundamental of Democratic Institutions, each person's vote being cast and counted by any means necessary for its protection.
04/22/2020 10:32 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mr Mark Hainline	<p>I am writing to support making voting by mail much more accessible, including free return mail postage while ensuring accuracy and reliability in the process.</p> <p>Please consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* Maintaining the consent of the governed is the essence of our democracy.</li> <li>* Limiting the ability of citizens to vote damages this critical feature. Even acting in a way perceived as attempting to limit the right to vote does damage.</li> <li>* There is a strong possibility that there will be a second, even stronger wave of the COVID-19 pandemic underway in November. See, for instance, the forecast of the CDC. ( <a href="https://www.newsweek.com/cdc-director-coronavirus-wave-late-fall-substantial-portion-americans-will-susceptible-1495401">https://www.newsweek.com/cdc-director-coronavirus-wave-late-fall-substantial-portion-americans-will-susceptible-1495401</a> )</li> <li>* COVID-19 is especially threatening to many senior citizens. Asking people to weigh voting against increasing the risk to their life is inherently unfair. Regardless of intent, it will be seen as an attempt to limit their right to vote.</li> <li>* Voting by mail is a straightforward extension of the existing absentee balloting process that addresses these concerns.</li> </ul>
04/22/2020 10:40 AM	Economic Support Working Group	President Pamela Mims	Please reopen N.C. I own a business and did not act in time to benefit from the ppp. I need the state to reopen
04/22/2020 10:59 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Ms. Carol Thompson	<p>Concerning upcoming elections, please encourage and make more accessible VOTE-BY-MAIL. Make requesting absentee ballots easier by accepting them by mail, email, online, phone or fax. Include prepaid postage with the ballot for mailing. Increase funding to help handle the increase in absentee ballots.</p> <p>Encourage EARLY VOTING. Provide adequate polling places including college campuses. Promote early voting and provide information on schedules and locations.</p> <p>Younger POLL WORKERS may need to be recruited since older people who often man the polls may not be available with the threat of the virus. Increase compensation for workers. Make sure polling places are kept clean and safe.</p> <p>Thank you.</p>
04/22/2020 11:03 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Director Therese Wilson	<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&gt; 10B-3(16)) that would allow documents to be notarized remotely, especially those relating to Advance Health Care Directives.</p> <p>I am a notary working in a hospital. The constraints of the current laws make it very difficult for people to exercise their right to name a Health Care Power of Attorney</p>



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04/22/2020 11:18 AM	Education Working Group	Stephanie Brown	<p>Internet should be treated as a public utility and should be available to ALL in North Carolina.</p> <p>We need stronger Internet and broadband THROUGHOUT North Carolina. K-12 and college students in rural areas cannot do their homework. See <a href="https://www.wunc.org/post/lack-broadband-internet-obstacle-rural-students">https://www.wunc.org/post/lack-broadband-internet-obstacle-rural-students</a></p> <p>Please repeal SESSION LAW 2011-84 HOUSE BILL 129 AN ACT TO PROTECT JOBS AND INVESTMENT BY REGULATING LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPETITION WITH PRIVATE BUSINESS. This "limits the ability of local municipal governments to set up their own high-speed internet service. The law spared cable companies from having to compete with municipal systems that could deliver the same high-speed internet access at a lower price." <a href="https://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/article210366074.html">https://www.newsobserver.com/latest-news/article210366074.html</a></p>
04/22/2020 11:19 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Stephanie Brown	<p>North Carolina needs vote by mail, now, to ensure free, fair and safe elections come November. Citizens in our democracy should not have to risk our lives to cast votes in the most consequential election of our lifetime. There will almost certainly still be a great risk of COVID19 in the fall; without a vaccine, treatment, adequate testing for active infection or serologic testing, safety of citizens to vote cannot be assured. The NCBE should move immediately to make this happen.</p> <p>Also, we must provide continual support to the United States Postal Service.</p>
04/22/2020 11:19 AM	Health Care Working Group	Stephanie Brown	<p>The NCGA must expand Medicaid immediately. COVID19 is a risk to all North Carolinians. By withholding health insurance from 600,000 of our citizens, the NCGA endangers all of our lives. Without access to health care, risk of C19 infection increases, those infected can in turn infect others. If our health care system is overwhelmed by C19 patients, all will suffer, including those having heart attacks, strokes or other emergencies, if the ICUs are filled with C19 patients. It is shortsighted and ignorant, not to mention inhumane, to withhold health care from more than half a million citizens of this state.</p>
04/22/2020 11:20 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Dr. Dupal Patel	<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>
04/22/2020 11:28 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Miss Victoria Estes	<p>Please, do not succumb to the protestors demands. Our state does not need to reopen any time soon until the curve is flatt and sharply declining.</p>
04/22/2020 11:30 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Miss Victoria Estes	<p>We need to make sure absentee vote-by-mail is more accessible, which means ensuring that both request forms and ballots come with prepaid postage and giving voters a multitude of options for requesting an absentee ballot, including phone, fax, online and email.</p> <p>The General Assembly may need to provide more money to counties to ensure they are</p>

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04/22/2020 11:34 AM	Economic Support Working Group	Erin O'Hara	<p>properly resourced to handle the expected increase in voters choosing to vote by mail this fall.</p> <p>Lets just stay home for another month. Look at stats in June. Also see if cases go down in June with warm weather. Watch for spikes from Tues protests. That should be telling. More testing, tracing and isolating. Also anti body tests. Extend unemployment. We can reopen when cases come down.</p>
04/22/2020 11:43 AM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Mrs. Katie Collins	<p>NC desperately needs to implement vote-by-mail. In fact - we should be already doing this by default. We don't all report to a certain place on a given day to submit our tax returns each year- why should elections be any different? We dont show up to a government building to be counted in the census either. In fact- very few of us even show up in person to pay for government services and utilities.</p> <p>There should also be the option to vote by a secure and one-stop App on a smart phone and a website. It would be so much easier for government acengies to detect and prevent voter fraud using these types of methods.</p> <p>Not to mention - expanding access to constitutionally given rights to vote would also prevent gerrymandering from ruining our democracy. PLEASE be a part of the solution and implement voting technology that matches 21st century standards.</p>
04/22/2020 11:44 AM	Education Working Group	Ed Hallyburton	<p>Arkansas and West Virginia are leading in ways we are not. It's time for long term care to be a top priority in our state's response to #covid19 and support these heroes who have continued to be on the frontlines every day taking care of the nation's most vulnerable. Please ask Governor Cooper to consider these two items.</p> <p>1. File with CMS a request for the state to use Medicaid funds to support direct care workers in these facilities.</p> <p><a href="https://armoneyandpolitics.com/direct-care-workers-in-long-term-care-facilities-to-receive-supplemental-payments/?fbclid=IwAR0wriw5HJLD0ruVHL5GVyTCIOcvKGvbSI3WDzJegbJqtoqVtFzA7ZBYLy0">https://armoneyandpolitics.com/direct-care-workers-in-long-term-care-facilities-to-receive-supplemental-payments/?fbclid=IwAR0wriw5HJLD0ruVHL5GVyTCIOcvKGvbSI3WDzJegbJqtoqVtFzA7ZBYLy0</a></p> <p>2. Order tests for all nursing homes in the state, including re-testing of residents and staff where outbreaks have happened.</p> <p><a href="https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2020/04/executive-order-calls-for-all-nursing-home-residents-staff-to-be-tested-for-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR07opwSRfaEOgyv-P6sZhIVKKdu9kObslesMvRcGHtiNIL5xzof22JvSpU">https://www.weirtondailytimes.com/news/local-news/2020/04/executive-order-calls-for-all-nursing-home-residents-staff-to-be-tested-for-coronavirus/?fbclid=IwAR07opwSRfaEOgyv-P6sZhIVKKdu9kObslesMvRcGHtiNIL5xzof22JvSpU</a></p> <p>How this affects Education: Most high schools have a Nursing Fundamentals course and CNA certification that students have the opportunity to take. These programs feed the demand for Certified Nursing Assistants in our communities and intersect with the requirement most community colleges have for entry into their nursing programs. As we progress through this pandemic, state COVID-19 death totals show that a third of all deaths are occurring in Skilled Nursing Facilities. CNA staff are being infected at a higher rate than that of residents and it is feared that many of these CNA's will decide to leave this setting. The attrition rate for CNA's in SNF's is high and this will put a greater demand on the system to secure staff for these facilities. Considering these direct patient care providers for hazard pay will incintivize these licensed professionals to stay in this setting</p>

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			<p>there by maintaining the continuity of care needed for these communities. Student interest in these programs is declining due to an average hourly wage of \$12.50 hr. which is a barrier to entry into this profession. While some may think that this is a fair hourly wage many CNA's cite pay as being one of the major reasons they leave work in a SNF or why they choose a different profession completely.</p> <p>Thank you for your time and consideration.</p> <p>Ed Hallyburton</p>
04/22/2020 12:34 PM	Education Working Group	NC Collaborative Voluntee Joanne Scaturro	<p>Dear members of the NC Select Committee on COVID-19,</p> <p>The North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth, and Families, through a System of Care framework, provides a forum for collaboration, advocacy and action among families, public and private child and family serving agencies and communities. partners to improve outcomes for all children, youth and families.</p> <p>Our vision is that children, youth and families are healthy, safe and successful at home, in school and in their communities.</p> <p>We would like to thank you for providing this forum for citizens to express their views and make recommendations.</p> <p>We have been in touch with local communities, and would like to ask that you consider addressing the following areas:</p> <p><b>MEDICAID EXPANSION</b></p> <p>We support Medicaid Expansion. Many of the families we serve are un-insured. Please support the NC DHHS action to apply for the 1115 Medicaid waiver that will allow individuals below 200% of the Federal Poverty Level to qualify for Medicaid during the pandemic.</p> <p><b>INTERNET ACCESS</b></p> <p>Many families are reporting that they do not have access to the internet; therefore, they are not receiving updates about how to access COVID 19 resources and information. This not only prevents access to telemed, but even when the service is available, providers are not comfortable with relaxed HIPPA laws, and this is creating barriers and access to families and children that must have clinical services through telemed.</p> <p><b>FUNDING FOR CHILD ABUSE AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE SERVICES</b></p> <p>During and after the pandemic, child abuse and domestic violence issues are increasing. Please consider funding for domestic violence and child abuse services. As an example, family partners are setting up "code words" with vulnerable family members to use that will alert the family partners that they are in an emergency. Without funding for our family partners and service providers in the communities that already have a relationship with families, many children will be in danger.</p> <p>The pandemic has created issues cross-systems. There are difficulties with implementing IEP's for children with disabilities; home health care workers serving children are not making home visits due to COVID-19 concerns; families need more resources for housing and food because of job losses; health care disparities are evident in low income areas;</p>

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			<p>there is support needed for homeless families that did not file taxes; access to services is low across the board; and health care needs are not being met.</p> <p>We would be happy to assist in any way we can to bring relief to families and children in this time of need. Please contact us with any questions or concerns. We appreciate the work you are doing to keep us all safe</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Stacy Justiss, Family Co-chair, Research and Policy Workgroup for the North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families</p> <p>Joanne Scaturro, Agency Co-chair, Research and Policy Workgroup for the North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families</p> <p>Ashley Bass-Mitchell, Agency Co-chair, North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families</p> <p>Chandrika Brown, Family Co-chair, North Carolina Collaborative for Children, Youth and Families</p>
04/22/2020 12:42 PM	Economic Support Working Group	David Wiater	<p>Dear Committee members, the data associated with the virus while it warrants urgent attention, it does not warrant a continued shut down of businesses in the state. Data that is being used in favor of an extension is incomplete and arbitrary. The reality is that with proper precautions businesses, especially small business can responsibly reopen. I urge you to recommend to the Governor that the restriction be lifted and measures put in place that allow for immediate reopening of affected businesses in the state</p>
04/22/2020 12:59 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Compton Donohue	<p>Hi, my name is Compton Donohue I am from Raleigh NC calling of behalf of the Right to Fair and Free Elections.</p> <p>I'm calling today about voting during the Coronavirus pandemic. It's clearly going to be a while until we're completely safe and showing up to vote or to work at an overcrowded polling place is a risk that people who want to participate in November's election shouldn't be forced to take.</p> <p>I don't want to have to choose between my rights and my health and no one in America should have to make that choice either. Congress needs to act now to make sure Election Day is safe and accessible for every American.</p> <p>States should remove barriers to vote by mail, make sure polling locations are well resourced to be safe and accessible, and expand early voting. But they need money to do this, and the \$400 million from package three was not enough.</p> <p>Will you commit to only vote for a Coronavirus relief package that includes at least \$2 billion in funding for states to invest in safe and secure elections?</p> <p>And will you include requirements for states in the bill, like expanded vote by mail, early voting options, and more and safer polling locations?</p> <p>Thank you for your time.</p>
04/22/2020 01:01 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections &	Richard Ziegler	<p>Duty requires that you make this happen! We will remember in November!</p>

Date Submitted	Category	Name	Comments
	Public Safety) Working Group		
04/22/2020 01:05 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Jennifer Rudolph	I am writing to ask that you review this new report out by a bi-partisan group of experts called the "RoadMap to Pandemic Resilience". It is an excellent framework to gradually re-opening the economy, avoiding a roller coaster option where we have to open and close multiple times. It allows for flexibility and creativity on a community by community basis, and offers easy to understand visuals, videos, and concepts for the general public to get behind. Offering examples of what a sensible plan can look like will be key to building people's trust in emerging from this shutdown. North Carolina has been a leader in making early, safe decisions which have served us all well. Let's also be a leader in how to re-open with resilience and everyone's best interests in mind. Link: <a href="https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap">https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap</a> Thank you.
04/22/2020 01:05 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Jennifer Rudolph	I am writing to ask that you review this new report out by a bi-partisan group of experts called the "RoadMap to Pandemic Resilience". It is an excellent framework to gradually re-opening the economy, avoiding a roller coaster option where we have to open and close multiple times. It allows for flexibility and creativity on a community by community basis, and offers easy to understand visuals, videos, and concepts for the general public to get behind. Offering examples of what a sensible plan can look like will be key to building people's trust in emerging from this shutdown. North Carolina has been a leader in making early, safe decisions which have served us all well. Let's also be a leader in how to re-open with resilience and everyone's best interests in mind. Link: <a href="https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap">https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap</a> Thank you.
04/22/2020 01:06 PM	Health Care Working Group	Jennifer Rudolph	I am writing to ask that you review this new report out by a bi-partisan group of experts called the "RoadMap to Pandemic Resilience". It is an excellent framework to gradually re-opening the economy, avoiding a roller coaster option where we have to open and close multiple times. It allows for flexibility and creativity on a community by community basis, and offers easy to understand visuals, videos, and concepts for the general public to get behind. Offering examples of what a sensible plan can look like will be key to building people's trust in emerging from this shutdown. North Carolina has been a leader in making early, safe decisions which have served us all well. Let's also be a leader in how to re-open with resilience and everyone's best interests in mind. Link: <a href="https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap">https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap</a> Thank you.
04/22/2020 01:06 PM	Education Working Group	Jennifer Rudolph	I am writing to ask that you review this new report out by a bi-partisan group of experts called the "RoadMap to Pandemic Resilience". It is an excellent framework to gradually re-opening the economy, avoiding a roller coaster option where we have to open and close multiple times. It allows for flexibility and creativity on a community by community basis, and offers easy to understand visuals, videos, and concepts for the general public to get behind. Offering examples of what a sensible plan can look like will be key to building people's trust in emerging from this shutdown. North Carolina has been a leader in making early, safe decisions which have served us all well. Let's also be a leader in how to re-open with resilience and everyone's best interests in mind. Link: <a href="https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap">https://ethics.harvard.edu/covid-roadmap</a> Thank you.
04/22/2020 01:27 PM	Education Working Group	Mx Jeanne Duwve	As an Elementary teacher and an immunocompromised constituent, I encourage delaying opening up schools.

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			<p>Many teachers are elderly or have other health issues. Small children do not have negative symptoms from Covid-19, but they can spread the illness. They will be infecting staff as well as peers, who will then take the illness home to families and communities.</p> <p>Please delay the opening of schools.</p>
04/22/2020 01:35 PM	Health Care Working Group	Kristen Geye	<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 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. Currently this is a true barrier to care for my patients as a nurse practitioner.</p>
04/22/2020 01:54 PM	Continuity of State Operations (Emergency Services, Elections & Public Safety) Working Group	Beth Martin	<p>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. I believe this action should continue after the public health crisis ends as it would facilitate completion of advance directives for many.</p>
04/22/2020 02:14 PM	Health Care Working Group	Patti Gillenwater	<p>Please expand medicaid now! Our ever growing uninsured population, thanks to COVID 19, is showing again the great need for these federal dollars and these resources. This lack of access to healthcare is having a direct, negative impact on all of us as these are the people who are not able to shelter in place or work from home - they are on the front lines, risking their lives and unable to preserve their own health and that of their families. Please take action now!</p>
04/22/2020 02:37 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Stay home NC Alyssa Ceran	<p>I have been seeing these reopen protest in NC and must admit it has maken me very uneasy. As our numbers keep rising daily it is clear we have not yet hit our peak in this state. I am a mother of 2 little ones and my elderly grandparents help babysit them. If we reopen and i am forced back to work i have no childcare as i cannot risk there health. Please consider everything and dont let the pressure of these protest get better judgment. Our healthcare workers are working tirelessly and noone is considering rhem during these prot ee's st. May god bless us all.</p>
04/22/2020 02:44 PM	Economic Support Working Group	Mr. Douglas Treado	<p>Do not accelerate any public openings of businesses without further information about so many of us who "asymptomatic" and potential carriers of the COVID-19 virus. More testing is certainly needed, perhaps some newly tested medicinal and pharmaceutical aids may come available in the next weeks as well. There are too many unknowns yet, even with useful social distancing and face masks more prevalent at this stage, nationally, one hopes! This is a much too dangerous period....more factual data is needed to make safe and constructive progress before we "cavalierly decide"...Don't rush this process! I suggest waiting and learning between now and June 1st at least. (Edenton, NC)</p>
04/22/2020 02:56 PM	Economic Support Working Group		<p>re open NC!</p>