

FCNCL ACTION ALERT MEDICAID EXPANSION HB 1040

To All Participants in the Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation:

This is an Action Alert asking that you contact Speaker of the House Tim Moore and Senator Phil Berger, President Pro Tempore of the Senate, to ask them to convene a special session on COVID-19 relief including expansion of the Medicaid program.

If the NC General Assembly expanded Medicaid, more than 500,000 North Carolinians would become eligible for the coverage they need to get care for chronic conditions, prevent illness and disease progression and live healthy, productive lives. Medicaid expansion would:

- Provide coverage to people who form the backbone of our economy and need access to care and services
- Help people get the medication and treatment they need, especially for substance use disorders or chronic conditions like diabetes
- Inject our tax dollars back into the state to provide more coverage for more people and allow state dollars currently spent on care to be redirected to other priorities
- Protect families from medical debt and bankruptcy
- Help rural hospitals that are struggling to keep up with providing care for uninsured people
- Create jobs and stimulate economic activity, especially in the health care industry

You may also wish to contact your state representative and senator to urge them to support our request. The suggested script for an email or phone call follows.

"Hello, my name is _____ and I'm from (town) and am a member of Friends Committee on North Carolina Legislation, an organization created to advocate for legislation and good government practices that embody the Quaker testimonies of peace, simplicity, equality, community, integrity and stewardship.

I am contacting your office because as a Quaker, it is my belief, based on our testimony of Equality, that quality healthcare should be available to all.

During this COVID-19 crisis we see the potential for the poorest and most vulnerable among us to bear the greatest burden. Thus, I request that Tim Moore and Phil Berger call for a special session about COVID-19 to pass relief for the people who need it most. In particular, we believe that Medicaid expansion would create the best opportunity for a comprehensive solution to the healthcare needs associated with COVID-19.

A large majority of uninsured and eligible individuals are children, and the majority of eligible but uninsured adults have incomes below poverty and only half live in a family with a worker. None of these individuals are immune to the virus, or of passing the virus on to others. Expanding Medicaid coverage would also extend a lifeline to rural hospitals which may be overwhelmed by the COVID-19 epidemic, and which have had to postpone elective procedures that are an important source of their revenue."

Let's not wait until the end of April to make a plan on how to keep North Carolina's most vulnerable communities healthy.

Call or email Tim Moore and Phil Berger's offices!

Tim Moore: [919-733-3451](tel:919-733-3451) or Tim.Moore@ncleg.net
Phil Berger: [919-733-5708](tel:919-733-5708) or Phil.Berger@ncleg.net