



March 17, 2020

State CFAC Members

2019 - 2020

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To: Members of the North Carolina General Assembly

We are writing to share our displeasure with the apparent lack of leadership by members of our current General Assembly. As of March 10, 2020, North Carolina is in a declared State of Emergency, and yet some of our leaders continue to appear to be unwilling to work together to ensure the needs of their citizens, some of which are the most vulnerable populations in our state, are being addressed.

The World Health Organization declared the Coronavirus to be a pandemic and the President has declared a State of Emergency for the United States. Just a few weeks ago some members of the General Assembly were indicating this was nothing more than the flu. Consider the number of people that would be insured today, and able to address their medical needs at this time, if Medicaid Expansion had been implemented. How will the state cover the cost of the uninsured in our state now? Not only will the state have to cover the medical cost in many cases, so will your constituents and many others. Most importantly, many more will be exposed to this spreading virus because the uninsured will not be able to seek medical care and will continue to work.

We are concerned that direct support staff (who are significantly underpaid under our current budget constraints) working with our vulnerable populations will continue to work because they simply cannot afford to miss work, or even to seek medical treatment. This puts every citizen at risk, especially the residents in state run facilities and residential programs throughout the state.

We recommend the General Assembly immediately provide the Department of Health and Human Services all the funding needed to address these unique needs during this time of crisis. Many lives will be lost if we do not all work together to prevent the spread of this virus.

We have strongly recommended Medicaid Expansion for North Carolina to ensure more citizens of our state have medical insurance, as have the majority

of North Carolinians. The NC General Assembly, however, not only continues its opposition to this much needed Expansion, but also has yet to pass a budget allowing for the effective transition of Medicaid Managed Care which it legislated several years ago.

In summary, the North Carolina Consumer and Family Advisory Committee recommends the North Carolina General Assembly do the following:

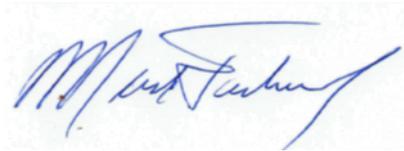
- EXPAND MEDICAID
- Pass a budget that addresses all Medicaid Transformation costs
- Ensure DHHS has all the funding needed to address the unique needs during this crisis and on-going
- Make certain that North Carolina workers and their families are financially protected from all financial effects related to the COVID-19 crisis to the extent those needs are not addressed by federal legislation.
- Look at the hourly rate of pay for Direct Support Professionals

We would like to thank you for stepping up and doing the right thing for the citizens of North Carolina. We believe time is critical.

Sincerely,



Benita Purcell, Chair
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Mark Fuhrmann, Vice- Chair
mfuhrmann@triad.rr.com

On behalf of the State Consumer and Family Advisory Committee