



Expand Medicaid and Close the Coverage Gap

640,000 North Carolinians cannot wait any longer to Expand Medicaid and Close the Coverage gap.

Background

The NC General Assembly has rejected free federal dollars to expand Medicaid for the last five years, repeatedly choosing politics over the health and well-being of North Carolinians. Since the NC General Assembly first refused to expand Medicaid, five rural hospitals have closed their doors and other hospitals have lost critical services such as maternity wards.

Republicans and Democrats came together to finally pass Medicaid expansion this year in Virginia – what's North Carolina waiting for? If the NC General Assembly expanded Medicaid, an estimated 640,000 North Carolinians would become eligible to get the coverage they need.

An estimated 300,000 North Carolinians are in what's called the "coverage gap," meaning they make too much to qualify for Medicaid, but not enough to receive financial assistance on the Marketplace. The vast majority of people in the coverage gap work in industries that are fundamental to our economy, such as construction workers, fast food employees, and cashiers.

Benefits of Medicaid Expansion

- Provide coverage to people who form the backbone of our economy and need access to care and services
- Inject billions of dollars back into the state to provide more coverage for more people
- Protect families from medical debt and bankruptcy
- Help rural hospitals that are struggling to keep up with providing care for uninsured people
- Reduce premiums for North Carolinians who buy their individual private health plans because when people are uninsured, the rest of us pay for it
- Create jobs and stimulate economic activity, especially in the health care industry
- Help people get the medication and treatment they need, especially for substance use disorders or chronic conditions like diabetes

Questions for Candidates

- With polls showing that 66 percent of voters support Medicaid expansion, do you support expanding coverage to people who can't afford insurance?
 - If not, how do you propose getting 640,000 people health insurance coverage?
- If elected, would you support expanding Medicaid to strengthen the financial stability of rural hospitals to stay open? If not, what would you do to ensure access to care and a healthy economy for our rural communities? Please explain.