

WEBVTT

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Hello, and welcome to everybody who's joining us today.

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We're so glad you're here and we will get started momentarily.

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Thank you so much for coming

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All right. We are up to over a 100 participants so i'm gonna go ahead and kick us off.

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We have just a little bit of time today, i'm lily shore. I'm.

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The major gift officer here at the North Carolina Justice Center.

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We're so glad you're here today before we get started.

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I just want to go over a few quick notes first.

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This is being recorded also. if you could please mute yourself, that would be helpful.

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If you have any questions, either. you can put them in the chat we'll have a Q. A.

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At the end of the presentation you can send them either publicly or directly to me.

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For best viewing. Please make sure that Speaker View is selected.

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If you go to the top right corner of your screen you there's a dropdown, and you can select speaker view.

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I'm also gonna drop a link to support us in the chat for any tech issues.

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These message, Ashley, i'm gonna put that in the chat right now.

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There we go, and we're gonna start with a quick overview, and then we'll hear a little bit more in depth about some of our issue areas. kick us off i'd like to introduce the North

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Carolina Justice Center, Executive Director Greg Laser, and our Director of Policy and engagement.

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Adams full, too. Take it away ricking at them.

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Thank you, Lily. Good morning or good afternoon, everybody. and delighted to have everybody with us today.

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Most of you know the justice center, but as a quick

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Did Rick freeze. Yes, I think could you pivot and take it over until Rick rejoins us?

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I sure can no wait. I I would be happy to do that.

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I am assuming I am off mute, alright, wonderful.

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So welcome everyone. The justice center is a nonpartisan nonprofit.

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We've been in operation since 1,996, and with a staff of 55 members.

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Our mission is to eliminate poverty and to advocate for policy that affords every household the resources and fair treatment needs to be economically secure and to remove barriers to economic mobility.

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We do this by leveraging 5 strategies, research, advocacy, litigation communications and outreach across 6 main project areas.

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And those are education, health workers, rights. How housing and consumer criminal justice and immigrant and revenue rights. i'll go through and cover a little bit about the Federal election, and then some notes about State courts, and then

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we'll talk about the legislature and you know first of all, good news for progressives.

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Democrats will maintain, maintain control of the Senate at 50, 50, or 51 49 depending on how these final few Senate seats work out, and among other things, it will ensure that the Federal Court

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appointments move through Democrats will lose control of the House, but not by much likely.

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A 220 to 2, 15 split with races still pending in California, Maine, and Alaska.

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2 key wins in But now member elects Nickel and Davis brought us to a 7 7 split in the Congressional delegation, and it really signaled that independent voters won't ultimately

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align with Mega election deniers so a very good development on that score.

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Yeah, i'm happy to turn it back to you rick If you want to talk about the Supreme and appellate court results.

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It looks like we've got you back but I'll i'll pitch it back over to you. thanks everything when when bike technology is great when it works So adams covered a few things federally

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I'm gonna quickly go over as well I think the Federal number will be as Adam send in the Us.

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Senate, 50 or 51 depending on the runoff in Georgia,

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Which is, in critically important for judicial appointments.

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At the Federal level the House will be either at 219 or 220 for the Republicans to 16, to 15 or 216 for the Democrats, all of which was stunning compared to what the

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pre-election. Polling suggested.

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Would happen. The addition to note about the the Federal elections is for those who care about reproductive rights in the progressive sphere.

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Every single ballot initiative that would have limited or banned abortion rights across the country in blue, purple, and red states, was defeated, and by hefty margins and every election denied who sought a secretary of

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State position, or an electoral position at the gubernatorial level, was also defeated.

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So, as I think Liz Cheney said, a normalcy or sanity prevailed in much of of the country in terms of some of the the major issues that were guiding folks at the polls at the State level Adam will

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talk about the House and Senate races, but we had 2 Supreme Court and 4 Court of Appeal seats at issue. all the Republicans ran the table on those 6 seats which will change fairly significantly.

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The composition of the courts is the third branch of government, and and a check and balance.

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Our Supreme Court, which was 4 to 3 Democrats, is now for 5 to 2 Republican, and our Court of Appeals has only several Democratic judges left on it.

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After this series of elections. What that means and the the things that we can talk about today are both of the legislative sphere, and as the litigation sphere opportunities and challenges, the challenges are we don't know of course, and we have to presume

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good faith of all of the new members of the court, and that they will operate in that way. and we want to be as persuasive as we can on the issues that we bring to the court.

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But given the ideological and polarization of our court to some degree today.

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And now I speak about the North Carolina Supreme Court.

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One has to look at the challenges of what cases we bring to the court.

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And that we litigate up through the progressive Alliance members and and our litigation capacities.

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We don't want to bring up cases to the court that where there is good precedent that could be overturned, and we also want to think about cases that we bring about precedent that we're seeking the other thing

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that wasn't as well known at the State judicial level, is there weren't a number of k seats lost at the District Court level by really competent district court judges, and who lost to some more ideological

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prevalent judges. We don't know how that will play out, but it also means that lawyers have to be cautious about where they bring cases.

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Lawyers have always been involved in forum shopping, deciding whether to bring a case in Federal quarter, State Court, and whether in state, court or court, to bring it in superior order, District Court, and where that strategic discussion and planning has to

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be top notch right now. and and for the next several years. and and so there are real challenges in thinking about the litigation side.

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As a result of the court elections and animal talk, and then Nicole and and Matt about the challenges that the election brought to legislative policy making.

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But I would add one last thing, and that is the opportunities we shouldn't forget that there is a fairly progressive Democratic governor still in office, household State members that control a number of administrative agencies a President of the white

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House additional Congress people from North Carolina that we did not have before that care about progressive issues, and, in addition, a whole Federal bureaucracy controlled by the executive branch of government, and so some things

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that we saw before, to to get through litigation or soft before to get through legislation.

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Now we may have to think more about using administrative capacity and opportunities, including the White house's,

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State Governmental Affairs office just food for thought and for discussion. And now i'm going to flip it over for Adam to talk about what he was supposed to talk about, hey?

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About the State legislative races. Sure thing.

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Thank you, Rick. and hello again, Everyone looking at the results of the State at House and Senate races.

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It's it's clearly the landscape for progressive policy making will continue to be challenging in a house.

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We moved from a 69, 51 split to 71 Republicans and 49 Democrats, which is one seat shy of the 3 fifths.

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That Republicans need for a super majority to override Governor's Phooos in the Senate. we move from a 2822 split 30 Republicans and 20 Democrats which is exactly

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what is needed for super majority there. This has of course, significant implications, I mean, over the fast past 4 years the Governor has vetoed 47 bills, and they've all been sustained the veto will definitely be

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in play, but of course, much more, susceptible to override and indeed the majority party is very confident that they'll be able to get some Democrats to join or walk on important votes with such close numbers we'll really need to watch

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the speed with which bills are moving in attendance will take on strategic importance.

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I mean, it is fair to say that the majority is occasionally game.

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The numbers for advantage. You might remember the Surprise House veto override of the budget in 2,019, For example, we do expect moderate and socially conservative Democrats to be courted to push veto overrides

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as the session proceeds we we'll likely see budget carbouts offered to secure these votes, and it will be important as advocates to identify and work with these members, because for better or worse it presents

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an opportunity for negotiations, a few things that we do anticipate how we will likely see measures that play to the majority.

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Party Space examples include an abortion bill changing the band from 20 to 13 weeks.

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So that was Rick mentioned. Referenda across the country suggests this.

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This may not be a good political move. we anticipate essentially seeing again ice coordination similar to

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Sb: one o one vetoed by the Governor.

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A Parents Rights Bill House Bill, 7, 55, which passed in the Senate, but was not taken up in the House and voter.

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Id, and possibly an effort to get rid of same day registration.

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Senator Burger is also telegraphed on tax, suggesting that revenues have consistently outpaced expenditures.

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You might reassess this depending on what happens with trends in inflation and the broader economy.

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I think it's an important footnote here and that is that we are hearing that some in the major in the majority party want to move away from social issues as part of the national conversation.

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As well. but this tension will impact what moves and what winds up dying on the buy. and while our work is cut out for us, we really do see opportunities for movement.

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We anticipate at least one favorable change with respect to consumer lending a repeal of a harmful provision in chapter 53 that allows confessions of judgment to be taken even after a single missed

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payment. we've also seen incremental action on affordable housing the States of Housing Trust fund and workforce housing loan program.

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Both saw funding increases this past year. The could also see movement on medical debt drivers, license, restoration energy assistance, and several other items especially related to workforce and economic development So a few considerations here

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on strategy, I mean. First, we plan to keep good ideas in the discourse any in every way we can.

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We will support messaging bills, hold press conferences share information with lawmakers who are friendly to our goals, and we'll continue to facilitate the inclusion of directly impacted persons and engaging in the

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legislature. We'll also cultivate partnerships with moderate and sometimes unlikely.

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Allies help influence the majority incredibly important going forward and we'll continue to work closely with our our contacts in the Governor's office.

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State agencies. and, importantly, our contract lobbyists who have relationships with Republican leaders who can help optimize our access and secure intel for defense.

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Also important to note that they're continues to be good opportunity for advocacy at the local government with cities and counties particularly given resource that are available through the American rescue plan act i'll ask you to stay

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tuned. Our formal legislative agenda will be coming out end of January, beginning of February, and I will now pass it on to my colleague, Nicole Dozier, Director of our Health

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Advocacy Project. Thank you, Adam. and hello, Everyone you know, as Director of the Health Advocacy Project.

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Where our goal is for each North carolina to have real access to equitable, comprehensive and affordable health care.

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We're really pleased to be able to speak to you today.

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Our goal is very consistent with the Justice centers mission around eliminating poverty by attacking it at its roots.

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We believe that poverty is a policy decision in our country and the South, and our State policymakers have always possessed the tools, but not necessary.

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The will. Unfortunately, to pass policy proposals that would ensure each of us has the ability to see the medical provider, or have a service at the right time, and the right setting without delay, without fear of financial ruin in the midst of

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a public health and also economic crisis. we've never been closer to expanding medicaid.

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And it really is past time. The world found out through Covid 19 what we have been saying all along in the streets, in the halls of Congress and at the Ga.

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That we are our brothers and sisters keepers and we're only as healthy as the person next to us, and the person next to them COVID-19 new no state barriers, no county lines or any

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partisanship. You may recall our State leadership really standing in the way previously, and speaking now not about closing the coverage gap, but actually saying the words Medicaid expansion with both Senate President Pro Tim

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Berger and House Speaker more agreeing. this is good policy.

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So, despite hearing there's little interest and from leadership and returning for a plan december session, we still believe there's commitment from all leaders in the 3 branches of government to expand

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Medicaid for us. We see it as an issue of timing, as an issue of negotiation, as an issue around certificate of need reform. and the issue of there is work going on behind closed doors what we have tried to

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do in our team is to work to keep the issue alive in the media by holding a vigil press conference at the Ga.

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Keeping people that are most impacted at the center of all that we do, including direct actions and including medical providers.

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Some of our successful campaigns that are have included letters of the editor, Postcard campaign, social media and sign on letters with several hundreds of State partners in other entities.

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We've also continued to lead our southerners to medicaid expansion.

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8 state coalition we've submitted jointsana letters and social media campaigns together, and most incredibly and almost still unbelievable to me.

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Is it success? We had on our team lobby work at the Federal level with key members there, where we created a plan to have a Federal fix for the holdout States in the South, and others.

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So the labing and advocacy work on our team led to what you've heard about in the American Rescue Plan Act that increased the Federal match for all States for the traditional Medicaid population.

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If you experimented a cave with North carolina that would have given us 2 billion dollars over 2 years.

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This incentive. i'm clear is what has helped move the conversations in the country. not just the South.

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So i'm really proud for the hap team for that accomplishment.

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What we want is a standalone bill to expand Medicaid.

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We want to stop this. We really need to stop the fact that 1,100 people die every year just because they lack insurance, and we want to stop just thinking veterans for their service and out, not actually making sure they have what they

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need to survive, and thrive in their communities with 300 with 30,000 still being uninsured in 23,000 of their family members. It's just we've got to stop this So what we're doing and how you can help.

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I'll put in the chat a link to the Southerners from Medicaid expansion coalition that we spoke about one of the things that we want to do.

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Now in this moment is to actually pull us all together. in deep brief and strategize for our joint work in 2,023 on that on that link that you'll see soon.

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It'll have great comment content around data for not just North Carolina, but other, the other southern Southern States videos and sign on letters, and sadly, a memorial wall.

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You'll also see that we are thinking of how we can celebrate South Dakota's when actually was able to say Yes, at the ballot box referendum to pass medicate expansion.

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So yeah, we let South dakota beat us so so if you're just as upset as we are about that.

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I hope that you'll join in and we can send you a social media toolkit.

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And finally, in thinking of the the elections as the election results as glass half full, we do have few, all new lawmakers, as you know.

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You've heard already with whom we can all work and help educate them on the issue.

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Not just the Medicaid expansion, but on health care we really got to get toward everyone having access and in having universal coverage.

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So. thank you so much, and I will talkss it to my calling, Matt Ellenwood.

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Thanks, Nicole, and thanks everyone for joining today, saw some questions in the chat, relevant to what we wanted to talk about.

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But kind of bundled into the election news The Friday before the election we received the Supreme Court decision, and Leandro, the most recent one.

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As you can see, this has been going on for quite some time but we've had a lot of movement in recent years, and we've done a lot of work engaging community work groups to you know have a say in the development of the plan.

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and advocate for the implementation of the comprehensive amo plan developed in the case, particularly in recent years under Judge Lee.

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We were able to submit an amicus brief in the case that had over a 140 organizations Signing on which was, we think, is one of is the most that has been done on the school finance brief really

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nationally. And I think we're able to show connections with philanthropy business groups as well, and that process just to show that there's a huge community of support out there for investing in public education in accordance with

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a research based plan that addresses a lot of the teacher.

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Shortage and vacancy issues. People are seeing so we think we've built a lot of momentum. there.

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Obviously the election does have an impact We don't believe that There's any legal mechanism to reconsider that decision.

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Nothing has changed factually. there's there'd be no reason to go back on that.

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The orders. The trial court should be coming shortly they have to do some calculations, and what's the impact of the short session budget on the amount that is owed to school districts for years and 3 of the comprehensive

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remedial plan. and it was also clear that it directed the trial court to oversee the remaining years of the plan.

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It's an 8 year plan. so up to the tribec to oversee years 8 that's obviously going to be more of a challenge, but it's something that we we we did we do have a work cut out for us

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there. But again, we don't believe there's any reason legal mechanism to go back, and really an attempt to go back and change a decision that was so recent would really be incredibly imaging to the legitimacy of the

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court system. but we have quite a bit Well, they so for years, 2 and 3. it's going to direct the money be released by the Controller and treasurer.

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So you know, going forward the legislature certainly will have A a role in in funding the plan hopefully will continue to file bills that would comply with what's in the comprehensive remedial plan use them as

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an advocacy tool. There's a lot of messaging work that we're doing just at this this sort of changes.

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We think the framing of this, that anything sure of fully funding the remaining years of the plan really ought to be viewed by districts, county commissioners, and local people across the State as a cut from something that is constitutionally

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owed it's something we're doing a lot of work on with our every child and the coalition.

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So we have this. This is a some big part of the work will be upholding this victory with.

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I think we're like landmark and historic get run around a lot.

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But this really was that, and it has national implications for our school funding lawsuits across the country.

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We work with a lot of national organizations that are ecstatic about this.

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Using it as a model for the work in their in their States.

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Not just the decision itself, which is beautifully written, and we can send.

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We have materials, we can send it. Pull off. the great quotes.

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From that remote earlier. Lee Andrew everything we're glad to share

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We think that's this is gonna again have national implications

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And then in terms of the legislative work.

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There will be, and I encourage people who want updates on that to look at the every child.

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Nc. Coalition website that's a deep engagement around the lantern related issues.

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Lots of updates. Some things are happening actions that we're looking for people to take

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We also will have a lot of defensive work. I think.

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Adam alluded to the Anti LGBTQ Legislature.

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Legislation was considered in the last session under the guys of parental rights.

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It's very similar to florida's don't say gay and legislation that caused all the controversy last time around.

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We expect to see that we'll see some efforts around you know something's called critical race theory efforts to curtail teachers ability to have open discussions about our history of racial discrimination in the country.

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I think we'll also see also in we'll also see some attempts to allow parents to challenge different materials, textbooks, curriculum things like that.

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We've seen in the past so we'll have a lot of defensive work. but we think there's an opportunity to push our own idea of parent and children's rights, and tie it to the Lee andro case that people what people are really

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worried about are shortages of teachers, teaching assistance nurses, counselors, Austria.

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You know just the you know people the buses and how we're running on time.

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People teaching classes remotely because there's not enough teachers certified lack of access. early childhood education.

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We think these are the issues that really move people and so we're going to try to.

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You know, have our own version of a parent and children or Students Rights Bill to at least have some counter messaging to that.

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Again. more kind of discriminatory version that was proposed in the last session.

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We expect to see again this session I'll Stop there, and I'll pass it over to Kisha Molette, who is an attorney with our fair chance criminal justice. projects.

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Thank you, Matt. I am glad to see you all here today, and if someone could add my slides, that would be great.

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Thank you. So i'll be talking a little bit about the post midterm election.

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How we're thinking particularly about criminal justice reform you get next slide, please.

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I'd like to introduce the rest of our team We have our director, Laura Holland, senior Advisor Bill Row, staff attorney, Emily Easter, in our communication specialist.

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Tim Young next slide so briefly the scope of work for the fair chance criminal justice project.

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We partner with directly impacted people. Congregations concern community members, advocacy, organizations and decision makers to change local and state policies and practices to make the criminal justice system more fair for a restery

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entry. Also, seeing a technical note around someone being able to see the slides.

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Next slide, please.

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Our work is important. for many, many reasons. it makes a huge impact in the lives of individuals directly impacted by the state and local policies that exist.

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But one of the reasons that our work is really important to us is that we believe that our communities are safer, and we can prevent further criminal legal system involvement of individuals.

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When everyone has access to the resources and supports needed to thrive.

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Next, slide, please.

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So some of our commitments include removing legal and social barriers for individuals who have criminal records working with a broadband, broad-based coalition of partners who include advocacy organizations, decision

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makers service providers directly impacted individuals, and uplifting a directly impacted appointed advocates who are committed to advancing fair chance policies in our State, and we do that both through our coalition efforts

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and our fair chance fellowship program next slide. so there are few challenges and opportunities to consider. particularly in light of what you've already heard today.

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Next slide, please. Thank you. So some of the challenges that we have to consider are certainly we need to revamp our inside strategy on criminal justice, and think about what is the the best approach in the current.

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Climate. We also are challenged with ways to effectively increase the visibility of the issue in our coalition work.

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But while also garnering support in an increasingly polarized environment, and also challenge to hold the line to keep common sense, criminal justice reforms in place, such as race, the age, and other criminal justice reforms that are important Next, slide

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please.

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We definitely see some opportunities for this upcoming session.

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We will continue moving ahead with a criminal record relief for thousands of North Carolinians, particularly thinking about the continue work to expand and automate expansion.

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Relief, as Adam mentioned earlier, will be focused on getting drivers back up across the State, back on the road by addressing date, debt-based drivers, license, suspensions, and then continued efforts to build

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broad-based coalitions, who are committed to fair chance, hiring and rebuilding our workforce.

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Next slide. There are few things that we know. Lawmakers across the aisle in the State have demonstrated ongoing commitment to criminal justice.

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Reforms. they're also broad-based coalitions that are operating, operating both on a local and state level that have continued to build mental momentum both during a legislative session and outside of

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legislative session. and we also have recent polls that show that criminal justice reform is still popular with voters, regardless of party affiliation.

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And by way of example, there's a recent national poll that shows that overall approximately 80% of voters are supportive of some point of criminal justice. report.

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Next slide, please. So just want to say that we recognize that we are focused both on short-term strategy and also committed to a long game.

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That means that we will have to continue to work. a effectively. with strategies, with with coalition partners, both progressive and conservative. it to continue to move the ball forward. and there are ways that you all can get involved.

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You we'll keep. You posted on one of our upcoming 2,023 advocacy days, and you may have an opportunity to participate.

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You can also join our debrief calls through Apple, the 2023 long session to stay informed on the progress at the General Assembly, and also stay tuned for future calls to action.

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Thank you so much for your support, and I will hand it back over to Lily.

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Thank you so much, Keith, and thank you to all of our speakers also.

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Thank you so much to everybody who joined us today, i'm so pleased with how many people are here, and who care about North Carolina's future.

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This is the official ending of our program, but we're gonna stay on and take some questions for anybody who has time to stay on.

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If you have a question, please drop it in. the chat we'll get to as many as we can for those of you who do need to pop off now before you do.

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I just want to put in a very quick pub to please donate to our work.

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Having the support of community members like you will be vital to achieving as much as we can in the coming years.

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I'm gonna drop a link to donate in the chat Now, if everyone on this call could contribute \$50, we would reach our goal, and with that we will start to take messages.

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Fair question, Lily, i'm gonna start by answering a couple that occurred early on about the redistricting issue.

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If that's okay, thank you so there was a discussion that occurred through the late spring and summer that the Legislature might come back in December to do a Congressional redistricting the sentence made clear

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they're not coming back till next session the house isn't clear about whether they're gonna come back in December to do a redistricting and congressional redistricting but they would not be doing

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it with the Senate, apparently. So I my sense is that redistricting is gonna wait till next year.

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There really isn't a basis for them right now to be doing another House or Senate State State redistricting.

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But I think there is a real discussion happening about a Congressional redistricting that would occur probably next year on the harbor, and and and I would say that the Court composition now moving defined to Republican at the

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Supreme Court provides a very different backdrop for any challenges under the State Constitution that might prevail.

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That leads to the second question that someone raised about the case of the Harper case.

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Harper was decided by the North Carolina Supreme Court, but was accepted for the United States Supreme Court to be our

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And the argument was, and is a very new theory that state judicial particularly State Supreme Court, have no role to play in overseeing constitutional allegations against redistricting in State legislatures that is

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it is called the Independent State legislative doctrine, and the idea is that is, being pushed by a number of conservative organizations that the United States Constitution, the sole authority in making up at least

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Federal Congressional, just districting and redistricting to reside solely in State legislatures and at the State courts, have no authority to overturn those based on State constitutional provisions that

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defies all history in this country. for at least 150 years. It is a relatively new doctrine designed to disenfranchise and dissuades and and bar state

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judicial branches from finding or looking for constitutional violations under State law of State.

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Redistricting processes. That would be a remarkable change, and how this country has viewed redistricting and it would be remarkable in North Carolina more so, because North Carolina and I think 2,003 adopted

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a redistricting statute that specifically calls for the State judicial system to have the opportunity for judicial review of any infirmities under the State constitution.

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So the State Legislature made the decision to include the State judiciary in the State redistricting process.

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So she makes more all more Bizarre than it's coming out of North Carolina.

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It will remain to be seen with the Us. Supreme Court does.

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With that case. But obviously the change in composition in our Supreme Court may render that not as meaningful as might have been had the composition stayed.

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The way it was. it is nonetheless, a very disturbing case.

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Along with an elections case out of Alabama that could effectively vitiate the voting rights.

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What remains at the Voting Rights act of this country, and disable State judiciaries from enforcing State constitutional provisions in the redistricting process.

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So both cases are big cases and ones We ought to be very concerned about Lily.

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Thanks, Rick. So the next question comes from Lisa.

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Are their plans to lobby against taxing student loan forgiveness in North Carolina, since Ppp.

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Loan Foriveness was not taxed by the revenue department.

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Is there somebody who can speak to that? Think I did online already?

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Yeah. I I tried to answer that one online and said that I think that we certainly plan to oppose opposite, to be in opposition to taxing the student loan forgiveness and nonetheless again composition changes at

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the legislature may may or may not make that possible.

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Terms of success. but I think it's certainly an argument and and one that ought to be made great.

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Thank you, Rick. So the next question let me see here.

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Can somebody please expand on abortion legislation in the General Assembly?

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Seeing no takers from my colleagues.

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Adam, Do you wanna I can share just a few things that we know, and then, you know, Certainly, Rick, you can fill in you, you know again.

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I I think it's possible we will see an attempt to move the band from 20 to 13 weeks.

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I mean, if we look at it from each chambers perspective. And again, Rick, i'd love your perspective on this, but I think, and your Senator Burger is perhaps less excited.

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And would you know, look at some restrictions, whereas on the House side, speaker, more might be more inclined to move, even as as as early as heartbeat.

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These are the This is what I have a call reading.

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But I I don't know that I don't know exactly where the majority party is going to land on it.

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It seems like there would need to be some movement. But again, I think the perspectives are slightly different between the chambers, and there is likely to be some openness to protections.

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For the life of the mother, as well as exceptions for rape and incest.

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I mean usually problematic, just with respect to reproductive rights overall.

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But you know, Rick, you may have some insight as well to share, or Nicole on.

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You know some some attempt to mitigate. You know what I mean.

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The the harm that could come from that so I'll stop there. you know I I think nicole's talked about in a broad sense the expansion and creation of rights that allow everyone to have critical medical access this would

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be if they moved in this direction. a denial of critical medical access for women.

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And in a in a very harsh way. But I I think Adam is is correct about the analysis.

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I do know that the Republicans were working on this fall on a bill.

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Perhaps a couple of bills on abortion with the theory that if they got the super majorities they would move very quickly, maybe even in the first bills being filed in January.

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I do know that. There are some of us trying to get in just private conversations with folks.

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It's many exceptions in as possible if they're going to move a bill.

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Not just the life of the mother and and the and and and and what that means.

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So that it's an expansive definition, not a restrictive definition, not just with rape and incest, but also if if you end up with a a fetus that has a terminal and and and very

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painful disease that that there would be an exception for parents to be able to make that decision.

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And Nicole may have some things to add to it.

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But this this I am. Ho! I have some optimism that the uniform national response to these bills that occurred in this midterm may give sufficient pause to the legislative majority about moving anywhere

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deeply in this midterm I mean in this long session. and also if they're going to move that they create a a build that is got broader exceptions, and then otherwise we're planning nicole yeah which

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is add, I think, when you look at the 70% of people in North Carolina, for example, believe that people should have access to help their care through Medicaid, find it hard to believe that those same people don't believe that

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abortion coverage is healthcare coverage. And I also would say, looking at the way speaker, more sort of leads his cock at least his group versus how Senator Burke does So I think it we only think

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about the way more does it. He wants to know what the consensus is of the caucus.

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And so for me, that means you would need to connect with people in his caucus, and that he may do what the pleasures of the caucus versus Senator Burger may come up with something. the way.

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He wants to do it. So then, that maybe he is more of the target, or the person that you would want to connect with, or your group would want to connect with that's how I look at the style of how they leave

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All right. So our next question is, It looks like mass, answered a little bit about the trial.

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New fishing question in the Chat so i'm gonna go to Portions question: Were we involved in the decision to reverse the tax burden for North Carolina veteran?

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If so, thank you, the lack of Attacks for veterans was the original reason for retiring North Carolina, glad to see their reversal reversed.

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I'm, not that was a senator who lost in the primary reelection, but Senator Debbie air out of Cumberland,

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Was a prime mover of that tax decision and

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And in Democratic conferences. I think across the board participated in the budget process to make that so both in the Senate and the House.

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So They're the ones who deserve. the credit I I added, certainly was involved in understanding some of that.

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But i'll turn it over to him. sure I I think the other group that was very much involved in energized on it, was the North Carolina Veterans Council, which is a group of member Organizations that serve

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veterans across the State Vfw. for example.

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And they did. They did a lot to to help support and move that legislation.

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We were involved in conversations with them, and certainly supported, but they, I think there are a lot of the credit.

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Great. Thank you. You know we have a number of gifts coming in right now. so I just wanna quickly thank everybody who's been donating during the course of this call to us.

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It makes a huge difference. and we really we really appreciate you.

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I think we're about out of time and I hope we've gotten to everybody's questions looking through the chat, and I hope it invites any.

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If you do have any other questions for us in our follow-up materials, we will include contact information for all of the speakers who are on this call, and really encourage you to follow up with us and reach out. Thank you So much for joining

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today we really appreciate everything, and we hope to see you at another event soon.