



Dear Governor Cooper,

The undersigned organizations are deeply committed to the health and wellbeing of all North Carolinians, which is why we must urge you to publicly oppose Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina’s proposal to restructure in House Bill 346 and Senate Bill 296. **Blue Cross NC is the largest health insurance company in the state, serving over [4.3 million policyholders](#), and any changes to its structure must be done with thoughtfulness, transparency, and public input.**

Since first assuming the governorship in 2017, **you have time and time again striven** to “[help North Carolinians live healthier, more abundant and purposeful lives](#),” enacting North Carolina’s first opioid action plan, signing the STOP Act, and forming the North Carolina Council on Health Care Coverage. Most recently, your tireless efforts to expand Medicaid have helped ensure that more than 600,000 people in our state will be able to access lifesaving healthcare.

Your support for Medicaid expansion was driven in part by your desire to “[help control private insurance premiums](#),” building upon **your long history of consumer protection** — both as our former Attorney General and as Governor, [vetoing harmful legislation](#) that would have bolstered predatory lending practices.

HB 346 and SB 296 allow Blue Cross NC to bypass our state’s [Conversion Act](#) and set up a nonprofit holding company that would not be regulated by the Department of Insurance. This would enable Blue Cross NC to **funnel policyholder money out of state without any meaningful oversight by the Insurance Commissioner and**

could undermine affordability, coverage, network adequacy, and access to care for millions of policyholders — potentially betraying Blue Cross NC’s obligation to provide affordable and high-quality health insurance to the people of North Carolina.

Blue Cross NC says it must restructure to have the flexibility to be more “competitive,” despite having [80 percent of the individual](#) and [group health](#) insurance market in 2021, and [\\$10 billion in annual revenue and a reported \\$7.7 billion in admitted assets](#) in 2022. **This begs the question of why they are attempting to bypass existing statutes that were put into place to protect consumers.**

Also, **Blue Cross NC’s proposal threatens to further increase costs for policyholders at a time when North Carolinians are already paying too much for health insurance, struggling with higher premiums, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket costs, while [Blue Cross NC executives are paid millions](#).** Any kind of restructuring should only be considered if it directly benefits North Carolina policyholders.

Through three decades of public service, you know better than anyone that the real motives of many corporations are often questionable at best and rarely ever in the interests of consumers and *our* pocketbooks. The people know this as well — according to a recent [Meredith poll](#), **only 8.3% of North Carolinians believe that insurance companies have their best interest at heart.**

Now is the time to secure your legacy of protecting consumers and improving access to healthcare. Since these bills do not outline an opportunity for public comment, North Carolina consumers need you to be their voice in opposition to this restructuring scheme. Blue Cross NC cannot be permitted to restructure without numerous guardrails in place.

At the very minimum, this process requires public input, a legislative study to examine case studies of other Blue Cross plans that have undergone similar restructurings, and a health impact study to determine future costs for policyholders.

This lack of transparency from a hyper-dominant corporation in North Carolina is unacceptable. **Millions of North Carolinians are relying on you to prioritize their interests rather than those of a multibillion-dollar insurance company.**

Sincerely,

7 Directions of Service
Action NC
Carolina Jews for Justice
Chapel Hill NOW
Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy
Fayetteville NOW
Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce
Health Care Justice — NC
Indivisible Asheville/WNC
Local Progress
Muslims for Social Justice

NC AIDS Action Network
NC Alliance For Retired Americans
NC Medicare for All Coalition
NC Peace Action
NC Poor People's Campaign
NC Public Service Workers Union, UE Local 150
North Carolina Council of Churches
North Carolina Justice Center
North Carolina NAACP
North Carolina NOW
People's Budget NC
People's Power Lab
Pitt Co. Coalition Against Racism (CAR)
Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic
Pro-Choice North Carolina
Raleigh NOW
Triad Women's Center, LLC
Unitarian Coastal Fellowship
Unitarian Universalist Justice Ministry of North Carolina