

Attorney General Josh Stein,

The undersigned organizations are deeply committed to the health and wellbeing of all North Carolinians, which is why we must urge you to represent the public's interests in Blue Cross Blue Shield of North Carolina's proposal to restructure in House Bill 346.

As our state's Attorney General, we ask you to uphold your duty to protect the people from the special interests of corporations.

You have shown your commitment in the past by taking on big pharma and ensuring that <u>it paid the price for its</u> <u>role</u> in fueling the opioid epidemic. North Carolinians are counting on you to once again fight corporate bad actors by opposing Blue Cross NC.

Blue Cross NC is the largest health insurance company in the state, serving over <u>4.3 million policyholders</u>, and any changes to its structure must be done with thoughtfulness, transparency, and public input.

However, last week, the power and influence of Blue Cross NC was on full display when HB 346 glided through two committee meetings with almost no public input, questions, or discussion and was immediately calendared for a House vote. This lack of transparency is unacceptable, and the people need their Attorney General to voice strong opposition on this issue.

If HB 346 follows the same uncontested trajectory in the Senate, Blue Cross NC will be able to funnel policyholder money into an unregulated shell company and drain nonprofit assets that should be used exclusively to promote the health of North Carolinians.

Blue Cross NC's proposal also threatens to further increase costs for policyholders at a time when North Carolina consumers are already paying too much for health insurance and struggling with higher premiums, deductibles, and other out-of-pocket costs.

As our Attorney General, we hope that you will stand up to Blue Cross NC rather than standing by as Blue Cross steamrolls its way through the N.C. General Assembly.

We need your support in slowing HB 346's progress so we have time to build in a process for public comment, a legislative study that examines the impacts in states that have gone through similar restructurings, and a health impact study to determine future costs for policyholders.

With urgency, we implore you to put the people of North Carolina first and remember that this is a cause worth fighting for, no matter the opposition.

Sincerely,

4 Positive Choices 7 Directions of Service Action NC Carolina Jews for Justice Charlotte Center for Legal Advocacy Down Home NC Fayetteville Police Accountability Community Taskforce Health Care Justice — NC Indivisible Asheville/WNC League of Women Voters-Lower Cape Fear NC AIDS Action Network NC Alliance for Retired Americans NC Community Outreach and Wellness Center Inc NC Medicare for All Coalition North Carolina Council of Churches North Carolina Justice Center North Carolina NAACP North Carolina National Organization for Women North Carolina Public Service Workers Union, UE Local 150 **Piedmont Progressive Action** Pitt Co. Coalition Against Racism (CAR) Planned Parenthood Votes! South Atlantic **Pro-Choice North Carolina Raleigh NOW UU Justice NC**