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COVID-19 Response Bill

Representative Nasif Majeed [majeedla@ncleg.net]

Sent: Friday, May 01, 2020 8:52 PM

To: Steve Johnston

April 25, 2020

Representative Nasif Majeed District 99 - Mecklenburg County



COVID-19 Response Bill



Legislators on the House floor practicing social distancing while preparing to discuss House Bill 1043, the Pandemic Response Act.

Peace. The North Carolina House of Representatives short session officially reconvened this week. Earlier in mid-March, Speaker Tim Moore appointed the Select COVID-19 Committee to develop policy proposals and prepare necessary legislation related to the Coronavirus crises. Yesterday, the North Carolina House of Representatives passed its first major COVID-19 Response Bill, [House Bill 1043 \(Pandemic Response Act\)](#). There are a lot of people and small businesses hurting right now and I am so proud to support a relief package that will help.

There are a lot of good parts to our relief package and here are some of the \$1.7 billion dollar House highlights:

- \$75 million in small business assistance loans through Golden LEAF
- \$50 million for Private Protective Equipment (PPE) and other COVID-19 supplies
- \$25 million for expanded testing and tracing needed to get NC back to work
- \$125 million for grants to North Carolina hospitals
- \$80 million to help local schools with school nutrition
- \$35 million for K-12 mental health services
- \$25 million for North Carolina's community colleges
- \$79 million for North Carolina's universities
- \$25 million for domestic violence shelters, housing, and adult/child protective services

On Wednesday Democratic legislators from across North Carolina introduced a bill to expand Medicaid in North Carolina. I proudly co-sponsored [House Bill 1040](#), which will increase access to affordable health care for more than half a million North Carolinians.

House Republicans failure, year after year, to expand Medicaid has left the state more vulnerable to pandemics and public health crises because of the state's high uninsured population. Expanding health care coverage would lower cost to all families and create over 37,000 new health care jobs. Too many of our rural hospitals have been closing and facing bankruptcy.

Republican legislators need to face the music and vote for Medicaid expansion. With the COVID-19 economic downturn, the need for more health care jobs and a stronger health care infrastructure has never been greater, especially in rural North Carolina. With frontline workers and vulnerable individuals without health coverage, this problem has never been more

dramatic. People are dying and it's high time to stop kicking the can down the road. If the Republican legislators are really for the people, they must support Medicaid expansion.

PEACE,



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