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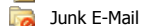
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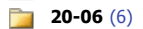
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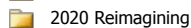
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2020 Reimagining



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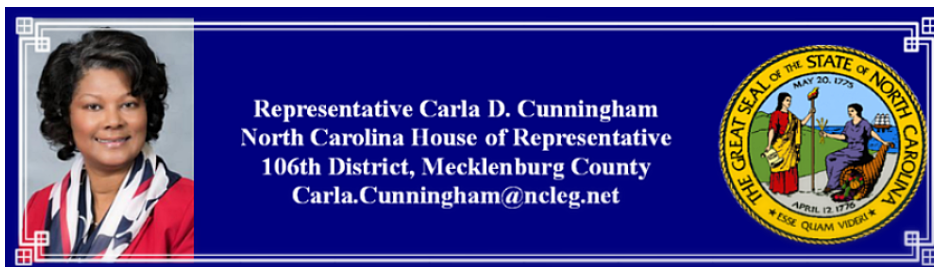


## Rep. Carla Cunningham's July 14, 2020 Newsletter

Rep. Carla D. Cunningham [carlacunningham2012@gmail.com]

Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2020 6:05 PM

To: Steve Johnston



### Rep. Carla Cunningham: House Committee Assignments 2019-2020 Session

Appropriations

Appropriations Health and Human Services

Commerce

Energy and Public Utilities

Health

House Select Committee on COVID-19

House Select Committee on COVID-19 Health Work Group - Chair

House Select Committee on School Safety

Wildlife Resources

### Non-Standing Committee

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services

### Appointment by North Carolina Governor Roy Cooper

North Carolina Council on Sickle Cell Syndrome

### Appointments by North Carolina House of Representative Speaker Tim Moore

Minority Health Advisory Council

North Carolina Council for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing

### North Carolina House Leadership

Democratic Whip

### North Carolina Institute of Medicine Legislative Health Policy Fellows Program

**July 14, 2020**

Dear Friends and Community,

The year 2020 has felt relentless with two pandemics gripping the U.S. The first,

Coronavirus-COVID-19 (also known as SARs-COV-2), struck as an invisible enemy, responsible for more than 100,000 U.S. deaths pushing our health care systems to the brink of capacity in many regions and the loss of millions of jobs.

The second, systemic racism, has been present for centuries (401 years), dating back to 1619 when slavery came to America and since the very founding of our country, and has now been forced to the forefront of our collective consciousness once again.

Concurrently in communities across the nation, we witnessed the killings of three people: **Ahmaud Aubrey, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd and numerous other African Americans**; they are now immortalized as the latest hashtags on social media in a growing and grisly list of lives lost solely because of the color of their skin.

As your State Legislator, friend, neighbor, since the beginning of the double pandemic, I have focused on ensuring our state's response puts workers and families first: their health, their wages and their wellbeing.

And, secondly, working to restoring faith in our broken justice system, to restoring race relations, to beginning the healing we all so desperately need. Standing against police brutality in all forms, a criminal justice system that disproportionately targets Black Americans and against the widespread disenfranchisement of Black and Brown communities whose voices are silenced at the polls.

This double pandemic has been a deep impact on every aspect of American life ---- and bold action is required to address the health emergency, racism, mitigate the economic damage and provide for a strong recovery. This is not an "us or them" problem. We are all in this together. We have to be. That is the only way we will get through this. So let's come together to find solutions. The Future of our generations depends on it. We cannot let them down.

**Stay strong!**

With Gratitude,

Rep. Carla Cunningham

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#### **[Bills to Re-Open High-Risk Activities Fail](#)**

North Carolina's cases and hospitalizations continue to hit record-highs. As of July 14, 2020 at 11:30 am we are now at 87,528 cases in North Carolina. There are 1,040 people hospitalized with COVID-19. We have 1,510 confirmed deaths for North Carolina.

Legislators have repeatedly tried to override Governor Cooper's orders and the recommendations of state and national public health experts to re-open the riskiest activities. Last week it was arcades, amusement parks, large public gatherings for fireworks, gyms, bowling alleys, and skating rinks.

COVID-19 continues to spread in North Carolina. Its spread threatens the public health, school re-openings in the fall, and our economy. How do we fight the virus?

1. Wear masks.
2. Continue to keep the riskiest activities closed, such as bars.
3. Socially distance and Stay at Home as much as possible.

I feel tremendously for businesses that are closed and for businesses that are open, but are failing. Until the public health situation improves, consumers will not resume normal spending patterns and our businesses will suffer. We have to control the spread of COVID-19.

[NC reports third straight day of record hospitalizations as US tops 3M cases](#)  
WSOC  
[Legislature fails to override Cooper vetoes, as Reopen NC protests continue](#)  
The News & Observer  
[5 veto override attempts at NC legislature fail, including 4 about reopening](#)  
Associated Press  
[Editorial: Help North Carolina get back to work](#)  
Capitol Broadcasting Company

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#### **Controversial Bill Language on Death Record Secrecy Defeated**

During two weeks ago late-night legislative session, a bill passed that included a provision that may have made death records confidential. The language attracted widespread opposition from advocates for heightened scrutiny of death cases involving law enforcement and from advocates for more openness and transparency in government. Others argued that the language did not make the records private. Governor Cooper vetoed the controversial bill, blocking it from becoming law. Additionally, I supported a new bill that made it crystal clear that death records need to be public.

[Cooper Vetoes Bill With Death Investigation Records Change](#)  
Public Radio East

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#### **Bill Defeated to Allow Guns on School Property in Some Circumstances**

[HB 652](#) contained a number of changes to our current gun safety laws. It expanded the number of people who can conceal carry handguns to include EMS personnel and certain law enforcement personnel. Additionally, it allowed guns to be on the premises of churches that are also used for school purposes.

[HB 652](#) passed the General Assembly, but was vetoed by Governor Cooper and that veto was sustained this week.

#### **Voted No**

I opposed HB 652 because we need to keep our bright-line rule about guns and schools: guns are NEVER allowed on school property. When you start making exceptions, it becomes harder to enforce the law.

Guns remain legal to be carried on church property. Unfortunately, guns are sometimes left behind by careless owners. That is a dangerous situation, but particularly so when it is left behind a church also used as a school.

#### **Voted Yes**

I supported HB 652 because it expanded the conceal-carry privilege to some first responders who are highly responsible individuals who sometimes find themselves alone and in dangerous situations. While I never want guns in schools, in rural areas of our state, many churches allow guns and those church-goers constitutional rights should be protected.

#### **Voted Yes, Then to Sustain**

I initially voted Yes on HB 652 because of my concerns for our first-responders. First-responders are highly responsible individuals who are sometimes left alone in dangerous situations. If can otherwise meet the concealed carry criteria and standards, they should be allowed a permit.

Unfortunately, the positive first responder section was paired with bad language that opens the doors to the possibility of a gun being left accidentally in a church that also is used as a school. My concern over this second section led me to sustain Governor Cooper's veto of the bill. In the future, I hope to have the opportunity to vote for a bill that does not mix in bad ideas with good ones.

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[Sanitation workers soldier on during COVID crisis despite risks](#)

North Carolina Health News

[N.C. Residents Won't Need a Doctor's Order for a COVID Test](#)

Associated Press

[State officials keep executive order in place delaying utility shutoffs](#)

WRAL

[Duke, Dominion cancel \\$8 billion Atlantic Coast Pipeline](#)

NC Policy Watch

[Pandemic leaving potholes in city budgets](#)

WRAL

[2020 Mountain State Fair Called Off Because Of COVID-19](#)

WFAE

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#### **Atrium Health Mobile Coronavirus Screening Centers Committed to Serving Our Community**

#### **Locations and Dates for Coronavirus Screening and Testing\*:**

**Tuesday, July 14 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. -**

Faith Christian Methodist Episcopal Church 457 Wellington St. Charlotte, NC 28213

**Wednesday, July 15 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

Steele Creek AME Zion Church 1500 Shopton Road Charlotte, NC 28217

&

St. James Catholic Church 139 Manor Ave. S.W. Concord, NC 28025

**Thursday, July 16 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Silver Mount Baptist Church 501 W. Arrowood Road Charlotte, NC 28217**

**Friday, July 17 - 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.**

**Friendship Missionary Baptist Church 3400 Beatties Ford Road Charlotte, NC 28216**

#### Screening Information

- Screening and testing will be done for those who have the following symptoms:  
Fever | Cough | Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing | Chills | Repeated shaking with chills  
Muscle pain | Headache | Sore throat | Loss of taste and/or smell  
Congestion or runny nose | Nausea or vomiting | Diarrhea
- If you have been exposed to (had contact with) large crowds, you can be tested. It is best to be tested 4 to 7 days after you have had contact with a large crowd.

#### Other Important Information

- Wait times may be long. Each site will let cars know when they are full and can no longer take patients. This may be before the 2 p.m. closing time due to large number of people already in line. To schedule an appointment for a test, please call 704-468-8888.
- No ID (identification) is needed for screening/testing.
- Atrium Health does not share anyone's immigration status. We do not report if a patient is undocumented.
- Atrium Health is not able to clear employees for "Return to Work" at these locations. If you are an employer looking for testing for your employees, please contact our return-to-work team at [Covid19RTW@AtriumHealth.org](mailto:Covid19RTW@AtriumHealth.org).

#### UHC NC Empowering Health Grant

RALEIGH, N.C. (July 9, 2020) — UnitedHealthcare, a UnitedHealth Group (NYSE: UNH) company, is awarding \$1 million in Empowering Health grants to six community-based organizations in North Carolina to expand access to care and address the social determinants of health for uninsured individuals and underserved communities.

In total, UnitedHealthcare is donating \$12.3 million through Empowering Health grants across 21 states. UnitedHealthcare launched its Empowering Health commitment in 2018.

More than half of the Empowering Health grants will help organizations increase their capacity to fight COVID-19 and support impacted communities. These grants will assist individuals and families experiencing challenges from social distancing, food insecurity, social isolation and behavioral health issues, which are among the most urgent needs resulting from the pandemic.

Grant recipients in North Carolina include:

- [YMCA of the Triangle](#) — \$250,000 to distribute food and critical supplies to seniors, children and individuals with disabilities in Raleigh, Durham and Chapel Hill.
- [Food Bank of Central and Eastern NC](#) — \$200,000 to expand access to healthy food by improving nutritional offerings at partner agency sites, providing medically tailored meals to adults and children suffering from chronic conditions, and reaching rural and homebound populations.
- [American Heart Association](#) — \$155,000 to distribute healthy food to vulnerable communities most impacted by COVID-19 in Charlotte and Greensboro.
- [Meals on Wheels Association of North Carolina](#) — \$150,000 to coordinate home-delivered meals to seniors statewide.
- [Granville-Vance Public Health](#) — \$125,000 to assist Granville County Public Schools with distributing meals to homebound students.
- [Mental Health America of Central Carolinas](#) — \$120,000 to promote good mental health through evidence-based trainings, expansion of a volunteer-driven friendship program and support groups for parents and caregivers in the Greater Charlotte region.

"This unprecedented environment has compounded challenges faced by North Carolina's most vulnerable residents and created further barriers to accessing the health care and services they need," said Anita Bachmann, CEO, UnitedHealthcare Community Plan of North Carolina. "Our support of these organizations in North Carolina through this UnitedHealthcare Empowering Health commitment will help provide critical aid and resources to the communities in North Carolina that need it the most."

Providing access to better health in high-risk and high-need local communities is a profound challenge. According to the American Journal of Preventive Medicine, nearly 80% of what influences a person's health relates to nonmedical issues, such as food, housing, transportation and the financial means to pay for basic daily needs.

The Empowering Health grants bring to more than \$100 million UnitedHealth Group's efforts to fight COVID-19 and assist impacted communities by supporting vulnerable populations, protecting the health care workforce and advancing breakthrough innovations in testing and treatment.

In addition to UnitedHealthcare's support in North Carolina, the company has launched similar community initiatives and public-private collaborations nationwide focused on addressing social determinants of health. UnitedHealthcare has invested more than \$500 million in affordable-housing communities since 2011, partnered with food banks and meal-delivery services, and last year joined with the American Medical Association to standardize how social determinants of health data is collected and used to create more holistic care plans.

#### Public News Announcement

I am pleased to inform you that the NCHFA (NC Housing Finance Agency) Board of Directors recently approved a loan of \$600,000 from the state's Housing Trust Fund to help finance Easter's Home at Caldwell in Charlotte.

Developed by Charlotte-Mecklenburg Housing Partnership, Easter's Home at Caldwell will be a community of 21 apartment homes that are affordable for persons with disabilities.

More than \$3 million was made available for the Supportive Housing Development Program (SHDP) this cycle to finance housing with services for persons with a variety of needs who are below 50% of area median income.

SHDP funds were awarded to six applicants. Eligible applicants were local governments and nonprofits, as well as for-profit entities that are creating Olmstead-compliant rental housing.

Priority was given to developments which will help the state meet its obligation under the USDOJ Olmstead Settlement and Community Living Initiative.

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### Produce Prescription Program

I am writing with good news. I am pleased to announce that the Produce Prescription Program is up and running. The COVID-19 relief bill that was passed and approved earlier this year included \$2.5 M in emergency food aid for North Carolinians who are impacted by the virus.

These funds will provide tens of thousands of people with emergency food via the Produce Prescription Program - a unique partnership led by, Reinvestment Partners of North Carolina, as well as Food Lion, Community Care of NC and the state's federally qualified health centers.

I am pleased to report that this effort is up and running and enrolling individuals who need healthy foods. As required by the provision guiding this funding, Reinvestment Partners expects the appropriation will provide 20,000 individuals with emergency food by the end of the year.

I hope you will also be pleased to know that roughly 96 percent of the funding provided will be used to buy food. Three percent will be used to run the program and another 1 percent will be used to evaluate the program to measure its effectiveness in delivering food, improving patient health and reducing health care costs. Independent experts at UNC Chapel Hill will conduct this evaluation.

I have attached an overview of the Produce Prescription Program for your review. You can also learn more about how it works by watching this short video:

<https://healthy-helping.org/what-we-do/produce-prescriptions/healthy-helping.html>

#### HOW IT WORKS



- 

Health providers enroll patients in the RPRx produce prescription program or Individuals can call 877-490-6642 from 7am-11pm any day of the week. Individuals will need to affirm that they have been impacted by COVID in their health, finances, or access to food.



- 

Patients load and spend \$40 per month on WIC-approved fruits and vegetables at Food Lion stores

Please inform family, friends and people in and outside the community of this great program. People from all 100 counties are eligible to sign up. However, Food Lion has stores in the 87 counties listed below. They are working hard to find retail partners in the remaining 13 counties so people in those counties can have more convenient access to the program.

ALAMANCE  
 ALEXANDER  
 ALLEGHANY  
 ANSON  
 ASHE  
 AVERY  
 BEAUFORT  
 BERTIE  
 BLADEN  
 BRUNSWICK  
 BUNCOMBE  
 BURKE  
 CABARRUS  
 CALDWELL  
 CARTERET  
 CASWELL  
 CATAWBA  
 CHATHAM  
 CHOWAN  
 CLEVELAND  
 COLUMBUS  
 CRAVEN  
 CUMBERLAND  
 CURRITUCK  
 DARE  
 DAVIDSON

DAVIE  
DUPLIN  
DURHAM  
EDGEcombe  
FORSYTH  
FRANKLIN  
GASTON  
GRANVILLE  
GREENE  
GUILFORD  
HALIFAX  
HARNETT  
HAYWOOD  
HERTFORD  
HOKE  
IREDELL  
JACKSON  
JOHNSTON  
LEE  
LENOIR  
LINCOLN  
MARTIN  
MCDOWELL  
MECKLENBURG  
MONTGOMERY  
MOORE  
NASH  
NEW HANOVER  
ONslow  
ORANGE  
PAMLICO  
PASQUOTANK  
PENDER  
PERQUIMANS  
PERSON  
PITT  
POLK  
RANDOLPH  
RICHMOND  
ROBESON  
ROCKINGHAM  
ROWAN  
RUTHERFORD  
SAMPSON  
SCOTLAND  
STANLY  
STOKES  
SURRY  
Transylvania  
TYRRELL  
UNION  
VANCE  
WAKE  
WARREN  
WASHINGTON  
WATAUGA  
WAYNE  
WILKES  
WILSON  
YADKIN

Also note that the program does not currently have an option for serving COVID-impacted people who are not active SNAP/EBT beneficiaries. They plan to offer this ability in 2021.

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[North Carolina School Update from Governor Roy Cooper](#)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
July 14, 2020  
Contact: Ford Porter  
Phone: 919-814-2100  
Email: govpress@nc.gov

**North Carolina K-12 Public Schools to Require Key Safety Measures to Allow In-person Instruction**

**Districts may choose to conduct school entirely by remote learning North Carolina will continue to pause in Safer At Home Phase 2 for three more weeks.**

RALEIGH: Governor Roy Cooper and North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NC DHHS) Secretary Dr. Mandy Cohen were joined today by education and health leaders to announce health and safety plans for K-12 public schools for the new school year. Schools will open for in-person instruction under an updated Plan B that requires face coverings for all K-12 students, fewer children in the classroom, measures to ensure social distancing for everyone in the building, and other safety protocols.

“The most important opening is that of our classroom doors. Our schools provide more than academics; they are vital to our children’s health, safety and emotional development,” said Governor Cooper. “This is a difficult time for families with hard choices on every side. I am committed to working together to ensure our students and educators are as safe as possible and that children have opportunities to learn in the way that is best for them and their families.”

The [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit](#) outlines the updated requirements for Plan B. Districts may choose to operate under Plan C, which calls for remote learning only, and health leaders recommend schools allow families to opt in to all-remote learning. Modifications have been made to Plan B since it was released in June to make it more protective of public health.

“After looking at the current scientific evidence and weighing the risks and benefits, we have decided to move forward with today’s balanced, flexible approach which allows for in-person instruction as long as key safety requirements are in place in addition to remote learning options.” said NCDHHS Secretary Mandy Cohen, MD. “We will continue to follow the science and data and update recommendations as needed. We ask every North Carolinian to do their part to slow the spread of COVID-19 and follow the three W’s: Wear a face covering when in public, Wait 6 feet apart, Wash your hands.”

Governor Cooper also announced that the state will provide at least five reusable face coverings for every student, teacher and school staff member in public schools. In June, the state provided packs of personal protective equipment to schools that included a two-month supply of thermometers, surgical masks, face shields and gowns for school nurses and delegated staff who provide health care to students.

“Educators and stakeholders across our state have worked tirelessly to reopen our school buildings safely for our students, teachers and staff. Today, we take another critical step towards that goal. We also know families need to choose the option that is best for their children, so all school districts will provide remote learning options,” said Eric Davis, Chairman of the State Board of Education.

“In-person education is important for children, and it happens in the context of a community. This plan strikes the right balance between health and safety and the benefits of having children learn in the classroom. We must all continue with proven measures to reduce COVID-19 transmission like wearing a face covering, keeping distance between people, and frequent hand and surface cleanings so we can move closer to safely re-opening public schools,” said Dr. Theresa Flynn, M.D., M.P.H., FAAP, a practicing pediatrician who serves on the Board of Directors for the North Carolina Pediatric Society and joined today’s announcement.

Under Plan B, schools are required to follow key safety measures that include:

- Require face coverings for all teachers and students K-12
- Limit the total number of students, staff and visitors within a school building to the extent necessary to ensure 6 feet distance can be maintained when students/staff will be stationary
- Conduct symptom screening, including temperature checks
- Establish a process and dedicated space for people who are ill to isolate and have transportation plans for ill students
- Clean and disinfect high-touch surfaces in the school and transportation vehicles regularly
- Require frequent hand washing throughout the school day and provide hand sanitizer at entrances and in every classroom
- Discontinue activities that bring together large groups
- Limit nonessential visitors and activities involving external groups
- Discontinue use of self-service food or beverage distribution

**In addition, schools are strongly recommended to follow additional safety measures that include:**

- Designate hallways and entrance/exit doors as one-way
- Keep students and teachers in small groups that stay together as much as possible
- Have meals delivered to the classroom or have students bring food back to the classroom if social distancing is not possible in the cafeteria
- Discontinue activities that bring together large groups
- Place physical barriers such as plexiglass at reception desks and similar areas

More details can be found in the [Strong Schools NC Public Health Toolkit](#), [Read the Screening Reference Guide for schools](#) and the [Infection Control and PPE Guidance](#).

In addition to the announcement about school plans, Governor Cooper shared that North Carolina will remain paused in Safer At Home Phase 2 after the current Executive Order expires on Friday, July 17.

“As we continue to see rising case numbers and hospitalizations, we will stay in Safer At Home Phase 2 for three more weeks,” said Governor Cooper. “Our re-opening priority is the school building doors, and in order for that to happen we have to work to stabilize our virus trends.”

#### **School Groups on Today’s Public School Announcement**

“While all school re-entry plans have their challenges during this pandemic, our superintendents, principals, and other school leaders will continue to prioritize student and staff safety in reopening schools under the cautious parameters outlined today by the Governor,” said North Carolina Association of School Administrators Executive Director Katherine Joyce. “We look forward to continuing work with the Governor, the General Assembly, and other state leaders to ensure our schools have the support needed to get student learning back on track in the safest manner possible in each local district.”


“I recognize Governor Cooper faced a very difficult decision. The good news is that local school boards can now begin to officially put their school reopening plans in motion,” said Brenda Stephens, President of the North Carolina School Board Association. “While the current situation may not be ideal for all, I’m confident North Carolina’s educators will continue to provide students with the best education possible.

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