



We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass
movement.

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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

Medicaid Cuts Have Consequences



By
DonnaMarie Woodson

This so-called "Administration" is trying to kill us! Denying Medicaid coverage to over 650,000 North Carolinians who have gained access to affordable health care through Medicaid expansion is unconscionable! Among those affected include cancer patients, veterans, people with disabilities, and children.



And this prejudicial mindset that everyone is trying to get over on the government is twisted. The vast majority of those with Medicaid who are able to work already do so. Nationally, 92 percent of individuals with Medicaid coverage under age 65 who do not receive Social Security disability benefits are either workers, caregivers, students, or unable to work due to illness.

Conditioning coverage on work when nearly all individuals are already working or unable to do so, jeopardizes health outcomes. Punishing people with cancer and other serious chronic diseases by terminating their health care will only make them sicker and less able to work. It will do nothing to lower the cost of health care for anyone.



My friend and fellow Colon Cancer Survivor Carrie Klamut would have lost her life without this stop-gap coverage when she was between jobs. Medicaid is a lifeline for thousands who, without health insurance, would

not have access to the screening, early detection, treatment, and follow-up care they need.

[Click Here to View Carrie's interview with WBTV](#)



Call to Action!
Message to your Senator

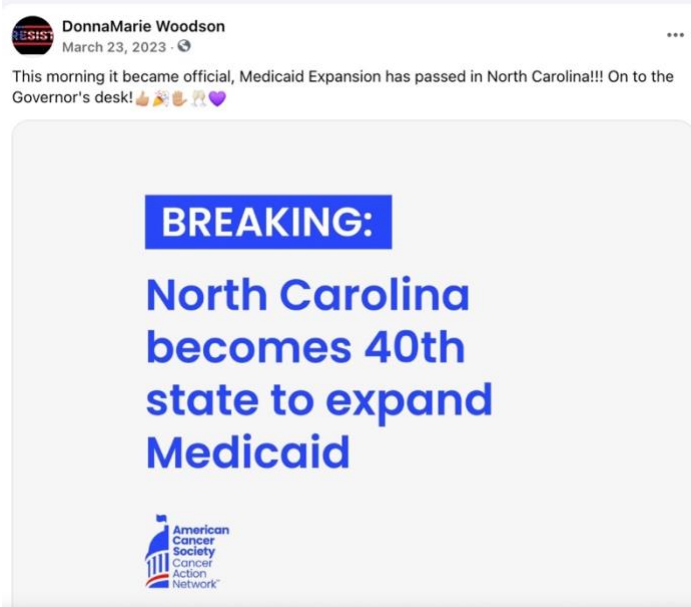
Senators: Reject cuts and protect Medicaid Petition

The U.S. House of Representatives recently passed a bill that would drastically cut Medicaid, but the debate isn't over yet. Urge your Senators to reject these cuts and protect Medicaid now! Medicaid cuts have consequences. Too many cancer patients and their families are already struggling to afford treatment, medicine, and basic health care. Cutting Medicaid now will only exacerbate the situation. We need to improve access to affordable health care, not take it away.

Please send a message to your U.S. Senators now and urge them to reject cuts to Medicaid. For even greater impact, consider personalizing your message with your personal story or why Medicaid is important to your community.

SIGN PETITION Here - <https://bit.ly/4kE7WDI>

I worked for 10 years alongside many other advocates to pass Medicaid Expansion. And I remember clearly on the morning of March 23, 2023 when I received the call that it had passed, so many tears of joy.



I will advocate for the rights and freedoms of all of us until and perhaps even after I've passed on.

We are in this fight together, so please contact your Senator by signing the above petition and making a call as well. [NC General Assembly Link](#)

Signing of Medicaid Expansion into Law by Governor Cooper



We, the People, are strong, and we will fight the madness happening every single day!

Works Cited:

Human Rights Archives - League of Women Voters of Nassau County. <https://lwvofnassaucounty.org/tag/human-rights/>
Closing the gap on the uninsured, one client at a time - Family & Children's Services. <https://www.fcsok.org/closing-the-uninsured-gap-one-client-at-a-time/>
North Carolina Becomes 40th State to Expand Medicaid, In Swift Final Vote by House | American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. <https://www.fightcancer.org/releases/north-carolina-becomes-40th-state-expand-medicaid-swift-final-vote-house>

****Please feel free to comment on the articles in this newsletter.
If you have any story ideas or commentary, email us at
donnamarie93@gmail.com and tarikkiley@gmail.com.***

We are attempting to build a coalition that benefits all.

Editorial

Economic Development is as Important as Civil Rights

**by
Tarik Kiley
5/24/2025**



Through observation of Black, urban areas in the USA, it seems evident that Black people in the USA live in disproportionate poverty when compared to White Americans. According

to the [un.org](https://www.un.org/), “For centuries, people of African descent were marginalized as part of the legacy of slavery and colonialism. There is a growing consensus that racism and racial discrimination have caused people of African descent to be held back in many aspects of public life.”

Even after the end of slavery and Jim Crow racism, many of us still live in a state of poverty. While there is a burgeoning middle class in the USA of Black people, still many live in the midst of concentrations of poverty. While Black people in the USA have won

many political battles, for example with the federal government's adoption of Civil Rights laws, still Black neighborhoods remain underdeveloped and residentially segregated.

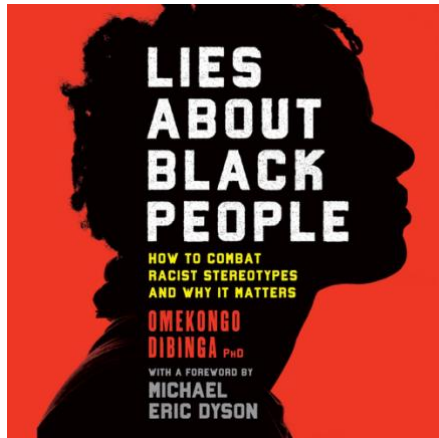


While Black labor built the USA's economy, generations later, African Americans still haven't reaped the profits from our own labor. According to the National Alliance to End Homelessness,

"Black Americans...have only ten cents for every dollar in wealth that white families have." Also, being overrepresented members of the poor, also leads to other terrible outcomes such as being overrepresented in the homeless population.

Many Black people have inherited poverty. The systematic barriers used to discriminate against Black people also has affected Black children with not being able to have the advantages, privileges, and other opportunities necessary to accumulate wealth in their lifetimes. Impoverished parents find it difficult to invest in their offspring, and as a result are reliant on institutions such as public schools to provide needed investments. But it seems that urban school districts don't care and invest in Black children as they should.

Through personal experience, I have witnessed Black children being excluded from Honors and Advanced Placement (AP) classes in high school, and also becoming victims to the covert, maybe unconscious biases of White teachers.



In fact, in the 1990s, the media created movies depicting inner city areas, full of Blacks and Latinos, who were portrayed as unable to learn, and hostile to learning. Movies such as “Dangerous Minds” entrenched stereotypes. Even if in reality, gangs did exist, every Black kid isn’t a gang member or drug dealer. Other movies, such as the series called, “The Substitute” also

made it seem like all urban, Black schools were accosted by gangs, as well.

Media, schools, and experiences in residentially segregated neighborhoods, often teach Black youth to believe in their own inferiority. People’s psychological states are manipulated to believe in a racial hierarchy, which puts Whites on top, and Blacks at the bottom of the socioeconomic ladder of society in the USA.



We also have to consider, historically, the types of employment opportunities Black people were encouraged to take part in.

There is a famous story from the “Autobiography of Malcolm X”, where Malcom told his White teacher that he wanted to grow up to be a lawyer. His

teacher and the class laughed at him, basically saying that Black people couldn’t be lawyers, in so many words. His teacher reinforced the idea that certain jobs requiring higher cognitive skills were off-limits for Black people. Not only is discouraging someone from pursuing their dreams horribly unjust, but keeping Black people in the most unskilled lowest paying jobs also affects the earning potential of Black people.

Some people believe the answer to decades of income inequality is Black capitalism. The argument is that we need more Black owned banks, stores, and more entrepreneurs in the Black community, generally speaking.

While this is true to a certain degree, we also need to focus on equitable development. According to the [epa.gov](https://www.epa.gov/equitable-development), “Equitable development refers to a range of approaches for creating communities and regions where all residents participate in and benefit from decisions that shape the places where they live.



Equitable development emphasizes that all residents should be protected from environmental hazards and enjoy access to clean air and water, adequate

infrastructure, job opportunities and other environmental, health, economic and social necessities.

To achieve this, equitable development approaches usually integrate people-focused strategies (efforts that support and are informed by community residents) with place-based strategies (efforts that stabilize and improve the neighborhood environment).” Equitable development increases the standard of living for neglected communities, leading to a higher quality of life for neighborhood residents.

Understanding equitable development, also includes a knowledge of urban planning principles such as Transit Oriented Development, and also “community benefits.” Understanding basic ideas of urban planning, empowers communities to take the necessary steps to highlight return on investments for developers to build mixed use developments in Black communities, and also other needed stimuli such as market-grade affordable housing. This knowledge will help to connect the dots between transportation, neighborhood development, housing, education, and improved socioeconomic outcomes.

While these are some strategies for combating poverty and generating wealth for Black people residing in the United States of America, we also have to consider the poverty existing in the global south. The global south can be described as that area of the world located in the southern hemisphere. These areas include Latin America and Africa primarily. While southeast Asia also is a part of the global south, for the most part Latin America and Africa are focused on when using this term. In the past, other terms have been used to describe the global south, such as developing countries and the Third World. For the most part, these areas were the most impacted by western European colonialism. For the most part, these are areas that struggle most with economic integration, technological advancement, and poverty.

But this shouldn’t be taken as a blanket statement. Many areas of the global south are improving their standards of living and have started to reassert their potential as traders in the global economy.

One particular threat though is neocolonialism. This is the maintaining of colonial-type relationships with the former colonial powers of western Europe. Neocolonialism includes the continual

exploitation of natural resources present in the global south. Particularly for Africans it means that international corporations take resources but don't invest in the people of the areas that they are taking these natural resources from.

Developing an innovative economy is one way to defeat neocolonialism. This means diversifying the economy, and developing competitive advantages in technology and infrastructure, while steering away from the trap of becoming banana republics. This means that global south nations cannot continue the history of having natural resources extracted from their lands, such as minerals or cash crops, but instead must develop competitive advantages in Information Age industries such as finance, technology, cultural exports, medicine, etc.

Overall, this all requires a shift in thinking. Africans in America, and Africans on the continent of Africa face similar obstacles to socioeconomic advancement. The application of assimilation from Europeans, whether through colonialism, or the destructiveness of slavery and racism, all lead to the same place. That place is the poverty of Black and Brown peoples. Black urban planners, in the USA, and on the continent of Africa, need to understand how prevailing ideas impact communities. Once we change the mindsets of people when speaking of the economic prosperity of Black people, then we can move forward into a more equitable future.

Works Cited

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<https://www.ebony.com/inherited-poverty-breaking-cycle/>
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Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg

Monthly Meeting

Thursday, February 6th at 6:30 pm

**North Regional Rec Center, 18121 Old Statesville
Road, Cornelius (south of Bailey Road)**

Speaker: County Commission at Large Leigh Altman

Zoom Link: <https://demsofnorthmeck.us20.list-manage.com/track/click?u=765fdf3806a10a2c360de71c2&id=b15c7de466&e=e90d0cd318>

Democratic Women of Mecklenburg County

Monthly Membership Meeting

Wednesday, February 12th

6:30 pm Reception, 7:00 pm Program

Hope Community Hall

Caldwell Presbyterian Church

1609 E 5th St, Charlotte, NC 28204



**Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com by
the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.**

Happenings!



The Executive Corner:

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

Contributor: Tarik Kiley