

Resolution

URGING NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY TO EXPAND MEDICAID COVERAGE

- WHEREAS, healthy citizens and access to affordable healthcare are key to the Cherokee County economy;
- WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would extend insurance to approximately 500,000 people across North Carolina;
- WHEREAS, our hospital estimates that the cost of treating uninsured patients is more than \$17 million per year;
- WHEREAS, research has shown that Medicaid expansion is associated with improved hospital financial performance in rural communities;
- WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap would create 43,000 new jobs in the state and generate billions of dollars in new North Carolina business activity;
- WHEREAS, federal funding will cover 90% of costs for states to expand Medicaid to citizens who need access to affordable health insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE 11th OF APRIL 2019 THAT:

Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital urges the North Carolina General Assembly to expand Medicaid in North Carolina as soon as possible.



Mark E. Kimball, FACHE
Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital
Chief Executive Officer



Michael J. Griffin
Erlanger Western Carolina Hospital
Board of Trustees, Chair



erlanger

Western Carolina Hospital

NEW HANOVER COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

RESOLUTION SUPPORTING MEDICAID EXPANSION

WHEREAS, an estimated 13 percent of adults and four percent of children in New Hanover County have no health insurance, including through Medicaid, while an estimated 17 percent of residents live at or below the poverty line; and

WHEREAS, a state supported expansion of Medicaid for people not eligible for employer-provided health insurance or subsidies through the health exchange would be the most immediate path to providing access to coverage for the uninsured; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would assist New Hanover County with addressing the opioid crisis, which has had a devastating impact on New Hanover County; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would free up more hospital funds to assist the estimated 49 percent of state residents who end up in emergency rooms because of an overdose but have no insurance coverage, including through Medicaid; and

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid would have a positive impact on the economy, creating tens of thousands of jobs statewide; and

WHEREAS, members of the N.C. General Assembly and Governor Roy Cooper have proposed expanding Medicaid in the 2019 legislative session.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the New Hanover County Board of Commissioners supports Medicaid expansion during the 2019 legislative session.


ADOPTED this the 18th day of March, 2019.



NEW HANOVER COUNTY


Jonathan Barfield, Jr., Chairman

ATTEST:


Kymberleigh G. Crowell, Clerk to the Board

**RESOLUTIONS OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF
RANDOLPH HOSPITAL, INC., d/b/a RANDOLPH HEALTH**

The following Resolutions were duly adopted by the Board of Directors of Randolph Hospital, Inc., d/b/a Randolph Health, a North Carolina nonprofit corporation (the "Corporation"), in a duly called regular meeting held on March 26, 2019.

WHEREAS, healthy citizens and access to affordable health care are key to the Randolph County economy;

WHEREAS, the Corporation estimates that 16% of Randolph County residents are uninsured, and many lack sufficient financial resources to obtain necessary health care;

WHEREAS, the Corporation estimates that, each year, it provides 7,600 emergency room visits to uninsured patients, approximately \$13,000,000 in uncompensated care, and \$4,000,000 in charity care;

WHEREAS, expanding Medicaid coverage would extend insurance to approximately 500,000 people across North Carolina, including many residents of Randolph County;

WHEREAS, research has shown that Medicaid expansion is associated with improved hospital financial performance in rural communities;

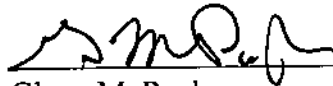
WHEREAS, closing the coverage gap would create 43,000 new jobs in North Carolina and generate billions of dollars in new North Carolina business activity; and

WHEREAS, federal funding will cover 90% of the cost for states to expand Medicaid to citizens who need access to affordable health insurance.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Corporation urges the North Carolina General Assembly to expand Medicaid in North Carolina as soon as possible.

The Resolutions were duly adopted by the Board of Directors of the Corporation effective on March 26, 2019, and have been attached to the written minutes for the duly called regular meeting of the Board of Directors on that date.

This the 26th day of March, 2019.



Glenn M. Pugh
Chair of the Board

Whereas, WakeMed Health & Hospitals (WakeMed) is an 941-bed private, not-for-profit health care system based in Wake County, North Carolina, and

Whereas, *WakeMed's mission is to improve the health and well-being of our community with outstanding and compassionate care to all, and*

Whereas, *WakeMed is Wake County's safety net hospital system caring for the majority of the county's uninsured and underinsured residents, and*

Whereas, *WakeMed's FY 2018 Community Benefit report demonstrates that WakeMed provided over \$90 million in direct charity care to patients without insurance for FY 2018, and*

Whereas, *expanding access to health insurance for the residents of North Carolina who are unable to afford it today will result in new access to primary care services for the state's most vulnerable population, better health outcomes and lower health care costs for employers and taxpayers, and*

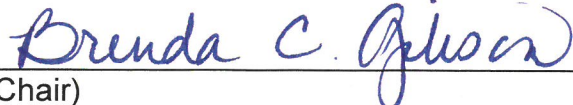
Whereas, *North Carolina's Certificate of Need law is proven to keep health care costs low by ensuring services are only developed as needed due to population growth and demand, and*

Whereas, *North Carolina's Certificate of Need law ensures that all North Carolinians have access, no matter payor source, to life-saving health care services, such as trauma and emergency care, obstetric and neonatal care, rehabilitation care, cardiac and cancer care in all inpatient and outpatient health care settings, and*

Whereas, *any changes to North Carolina's Certificate of Need law will hurt the ability of WakeMed and community hospitals through the state to fulfill their missions of meeting their community's health care needs;*

Now therefore, be it resolved that the Board to Directors of WakeMed Health & Hospitals urges the Governor and General Assembly to close the insurance coverage gap by expanding Medicaid and to preserve and protect North Carolina's Certificate of Need law which will better help WakeMed and other North Carolina safety-net hospitals provide access to health care to our State's most vulnerable citizens.

This resolution was passed by the Board of Directors of WakeMed Health & Hospitals on the 2nd day of April in the year 2019 and will be sent to Governor Cooper and all state Senators and Representatives with constituents in WakeMed's service area.



(Chair)



Hospitals and health systems support N.C. legislative proposal to expand health insurance access to working families

By [NCHA](#) on April 9, 2019 / [Advocacy](#), [General Assembly](#), [Medicaid](#), [News Releases](#)

Closing the coverage gap is a priority for healthcare providers

Raleigh, NC – April 9, 2019 – The North Carolina Healthcare Association endorses **House Bill 655: NC Health Care for Working Families Act** as a common-sense option to close the coverage gap and increase affordable access to health insurance for working individuals and families in North Carolina. By covering hard-working North Carolinians like farmers, fisherman, clergy, and veterans, this bill moves North Carolina in the right direction. “We know that people who have health insurance coverage are more likely to get the primary and preventive care they need to get and stay healthy,” said Steve Lawler, NCHA president. “Other states that have created expanded coverage options are already seeing significant improvements in health outcomes as a result.”

As the primary healthcare safety net in their communities, North Carolina’s hospitals and health systems see firsthand the results when individuals lack access to preventive physical and mental health care. For example, nearly 144,000 North Carolinians with mental illness or substance use disorders fall in the coverage gap. Without insurance, many resort to seeking expensive crisis care in increasingly crowded emergency departments across our state.

Providing coverage for this population will give even more hard-working North Carolinians access to value-based care options that other groups, including Medicare and traditional Medicaid, have provided.

“For too long, North Carolinians have supported other states’ coverage expansion efforts,” said Lawler. “It is time to put that investment to work for our neighbors, supporting them in taking control of their health and wellness. We support a bipartisan approach to getting this done.”



NCNA News

Nursing Organizations Unite to Support Closing the Coverage Gap

April 16, 2019

RALEIGH, N.C. – Nursing groups from across NC are calling on legislators to act now to provide affordable health insurance to more than 500,000 North Carolinians who are currently uninsured. As nurses, we see firsthand the devastating economic and health outcomes that affect people who fall in the coverage gap. Closing the gap will also help rural hospitals keep their doors open. With so many uninsured North Carolinians living in rural areas of the state, rural hospitals often struggle to compensate for patients who can't afford to pay for their care.



The chance to provide a safety net for hundreds of thousands of North Carolina's most vulnerable communities is rare, and we strongly feel that the North Carolina General Assembly should take this opportunity seriously. Many groups have called for different strategies to close the coverage gap, but only one politically-viable option has been put forward this session, and we are proud to stand behind HB 655, the NC Health Care of Working Families Act.

The day HB 655 was introduced, Rep. Donna White (R-Johnston), one of our fellow nurses and a primary sponsor of the bill, said, "We really need this bill. It is the bill of a lifetime for anybody that's in healthcare."

It takes courage for legislators to push for this type of bill, and we salute Rep. White and her primary co-sponsors, Rep. Donny Lambeth (R-Forsyth), Rep. Josh Dobson (R-McDowell), and Rep. Greg Murphy (R-Pitt), for prioritizing this issue.

The nursing organizations signing on to support this legislation include:

- North Carolina Nurses Association
- North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- North Carolina League for Nursing
- Association for Home & Hospice Care of North Carolina
- Academy of Medical-Surgical Nurses Triangle Chapter
- North Carolina Affiliate of the American College of Nurse-Midwives
- North Carolina Assisted Living Association
- School Nurse Association of North Carolina
- North Carolina Chapter of the National Association of Clinical Nurse Specialists
- North Carolina Emergency Nurses Association
- North Carolina Organization for Nurse Leaders

- North Carolina Association of Nurse Anesthetists
- NCNA Council of Nurse Practitioners

For more information or to schedule an interview, please contact Chris Cowperthwaite, Manager of Communications and Outreach, at chriscowperthwaite@ncnurses.org or 919.821.4250.



**University of North Carolina Health Care System
2019 Legislative and Policy Initiatives**

WHEREAS, the University of North Carolina Health Care System is the State's Health Care System, based in Chapel Hill, North Carolina; and

WHEREAS, the UNC Health Care System's mission is to improve the health and wellbeing of North Carolinians and others whom we serve. We accomplish this first by prioritizing access to affordable, high quality care across the entire state of North Carolina. We do this through providing leadership and excellence in the interrelated areas of patient care, education, and research; and

WHEREAS, the UNC Health Care System, including affiliate network hospitals, provided approximately \$600,000,000 in charity care to patients in FY2018 and believe that every patient who walks through our doors deserves equal levels of care; and

WHEREAS, we believe that protecting the health of communities throughout North Carolina means protecting all hospitals and the citizens they serve. This requires a focus on chief health care initiatives such as closing the insurance coverage gap, maintaining the integrity of Certificate of Need laws, maintaining expanding supplemental payments to critical health care providers and protecting one of our state's strongest assets: affordable and accessible health insurance for our state employees and retirees; and

WHEREAS, strong, vibrant health care services in all areas of our state provide consistent access to primary and preventative care services close to home. Increased and protected access to primary and preventative services results in better health outcomes and lower health care costs for residents, taxpayers, employers and government payors; and

WHEREAS, the health of communities in other states that have previously expanded Medicaid have benefited through the overall increased health of Medicaid recipients, reduced emergency department use, increased detection of unknown or previously unaddressed health conditions, decreased medical debt holding and increase the ability to pay other non-medical bills. Our economy will also benefit as increasing health insurance coverage has been shown to have a return on investment of 1.5 to 2.0 for every dollar and has the potential to create 43,000 jobs in North Carolina by 2020; and

WHEREAS, Certificate of Need laws help to maintain regulation of the health care community. These laws ensure the vitality of pre-existing providers in offering health care services for all of our communities, providing care close to home, and simultaneously creating economic support for the communities who rely on it; and



WHEREAS, Medicaid supplemental payments are vital in the administrative health of hospitals who provide substantial levels of uncompensated care. Maintenance of these payment models are also critical in the recruitment and retention of physicians at a time of a looming physician shortage in our state. Expansion of supplemental payment programs can be accomplished through the Department of Health and Human Services working with newly contracted Medicaid managed-care companies; and

WHEREAS, as the proud employer of over 13,000 state employees, the UNC Health Care System is especially committed to working toward a long-term solution for our State Employees Health Plan, one that ensures affordability and accessibility for the families who need it most. We believe that the Plan will succeed best when all stakeholders are at the table, able to consider value-based approaches and come to an agreed-upon path forward that protects both patients and provider communities; and

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the Board of Directors of the UNC Health Care System encourages the Governor and General Assembly to make the health of every community in North Carolina a priority by supporting each of these policies either through legislation or policy changes.

This resolution was endorsed by the Board of Directors of the UNC Health Care System and will be sent to Governor Roy Cooper, all members of the North Carolina General Assembly as well as the Secretary of Health and Human Services, Mandy Cohen.

ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY, THIS 5TH DAY OF APRIL, TWO THOUSAND AND NINETEEN.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Charles D. Owen III", written over a horizontal line.

Charles D. Owen, III
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Wesley Burks", written over a horizontal line.

A. Wesley Burks, MD
Chief Executive Officer