



**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".

Charles D. Owen, III
Chair, Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Wesley Burks, MD".

A. Wesley Burks, MD
Chief Executive Officer