

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: EXPANDING MEDICAID

Congratulations to the NC Senate which recently passed Medicaid Expansion. A recent [Meredith Poll](#) shows that over 70% of North Carolinians, across the political spectrum, support Expansion. And here are just a few reasons why: Medicaid Expansion leads to decreases in premature deaths for older adults. Medicaid Expansion helps rural hospitals keep their doors open and keep jobs in rural areas. Medicaid Expansion is endorsed by the Veterans of Foreign Wars in North Carolina. Medicaid Expansion will increase coverage for small business owners' employees, helping keep staff healthy and at work. 73,000 women of reproductive age in NC would gain coverage through Medicaid Expansion. Medicaid Expansion drastically reduced the number of uninsured patients hospitalized by 79%

According to Senate leader, Phil Berger, "Medicaid expansion has evolved to a point that it is good state fiscal policy. We will not get a better deal to expand Medicaid than we have right now." With so much at stake and so much to gain from closing our state's coverage gap, I urge Representatives Moffitt and Johnson to follow the lead of the NC Senate and support and pass Medicaid Expansion to close our state's coverage gap once and for all.

Rachel Poller