Talking Points-Medicaid Reform and Expansion

* 500,000 North Carolinians are currently without access to healthcare because of North Carolina’s failure to expand Medicaid.
* According to a recent study, by 2020 Medicaid expansion would create 43,000 jobs, nearly $1 billion in new tax revenue, and would allow 500,000 people access to affordable healthcare.
* In addition to the economic benefits, expanding Medicaid would save as many as 1,000 lives in our state every year.
* Now that Medicaid reform is in motion, it is time to expand coverage to 500,000 hard-working North Carolinians.
* Expansion is critical for containing costs in Medicaid, which is a key goal of North Carolina’s Medicaid Reform. Without expanding health coverage to people in the gap who oftentimes have many unmet medical needs, they will receive inconsistent health care. Many people in the coverage gap obtain Medicaid for short periods of time and use more services, which is costlier.
* North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services (NCDHHS) will struggle to maintain access for Medicaid patients as the health care infrastructure erodes, especially in vulnerable rural areas, as a result of refusing to close the coverage gap. Clinic and hospital closings will only accelerate in the future if we do not access additional federal funds.
* It is unlikely that the federal government will continue to grant the state Delivery System Reform Incentive Payments when we are refusing to tap existing federal funds as the Affordable Care Act (ACA) intended.
* Hospitals and clinics are struggling with a lack of revenue and resources. Reform without Expansion may lead to more health care facility closings if they do not have the funds to adapt. Expanding coverage would provide these health systems with additional revenue to cover a portion of and reduce the amount of uncompensated care.
* It will be challenging to fully integrate behavioral health and substance use disorder treatment with primary care as many people are unable to access the long-term supports and services they need due to a lack of insurance.
* The federal government is unlikely to believe that our state is truly innovative and takes its commitment to improving the lives of low-income citizens seriously when we are refusing federal funds to extend insurance coverage to 500,000 more people.