 

**POSTCARD PARTY #157 3 YEAR ANNIVERSARY JAN. 24, 2020**

***Reflections of subjects we were discussing a year ago that still need attention:***

***Postcard Party #105 Jan. 25, 2019***

**TRUMP SEEKS TO FORCE STATE CUTS TO MEDICAID**

The plan, Politico reported Friday citing ‘three administration sources,’ would involve states being able to opt for block grants instead of receiving open ended funding as they do now, for supposedly “more flexibility to run the low-income health program that serves nearly 75 million Americans, from poor children, to disabled people, to impoverished seniors in nursing homes.” Another lawmaker chiming in was Senate Finance Committee member Bob Casey (D-Pa.), who offered a blunt “Hell no” to the plan. ‘If the Administration tries to decimate Medicaid through executive action after its scheme was rejected by Congress and the American people, I will fight it with everything I have.’ he tweeted.”

**North Carolina needs to expand Medicaid to cover citizens who struggle daily to afford housing, purchase enough nutritious food, and pay for vital medical care. Write to Gov. Cooper and your representatives in the State Senate and Assembly to tell them that we are watching their actions on this issue.**

***Postcard Party #106 Feb 1, 2019***

Write House Representatives, Do not fund a farce of an emergency. No Wall. Fund Health care.

***Postcard Party #107 Feb. 8, 2019***

**State**

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY GETS ANOTHER CHANCE TO PROVIDE HEALTHCARE TO NC**

More than half a million North Carolinians lack health care coverage because our state has refused to expand Medicaid to cover low-income workers. Although the federal government will cover 90% of the cost of providing health insurance to those who need it, North Carolina has refused. A new session of the General Assembly begins this week, and with it another chance to do right by those in need in our state.

• 500,000 people in North Carolina make too little to afford health insurance and too much to qualify for Medicaid. This is known as the Medicaid Gap. The Affordable Care Act provides subsidies to people of modest means, but gave money to states to expand Medicaid programs to cover the very poor. North Carolina did not accept this money.

• Single people making less than $12,000 a year and families of three making between $8,000 and $20,000 do not qualify for health care premium subsidies, but also do not qualify for Medicaid. For these people, healthcare is unattainable.

• 37 states have expanded Medicaid. In these states, the very poor have access to health insurance and medical care.

• Expanding Medicaid would add 43,000 jobs to North Carolina’s economy. It would bring $4 billion in federal funding to North Carolina annually.

**Bottom Line: During the last few sessions of the NC General Assembly, legislators have filed bills to expand Medicaid and close the coverage gap. The session beginning this week is another opportunity to give North Carolinians the same chance at healthy outcomes that those in the rest of the country have. Write to Rep. Henson (now Jake Johnson) and McGrady, and Sen. Edwards and request them to promise to support an expansion of Medicaid for our most vulnerable citizens.**

***Postcard Party #108 Feb. 15, 2019***

**Local**

**RENEWABLE ENERGY**

Renewable energy is a key element in decreasing greenhouse gases. Write the mayor, city councilmen and county commissioners to demand that sustainability goals for the city and county be developed and implemented, that all new construction include solar panels and that older buildings be retrofitted with solar panels.

***Postcard Party #109 Feb. 22, 2019***

**CRISIS – REAL OR POLITICAL IMAGINATON?**

**Write** Senators Richard M Burr and Thom Tillis, Congressman Mark Meadows

Donald Trump used the National Emergency Clause to conscribe funds to start/complete his wall between the US and Mexico. During his speech he said he really did not need to declare an emergency to finish his wall because it was already underway.

***Postcard Party #110 Mar. 1, 2019***

In 2019, NC could become the “tipping-point” (38th) ratification state to send the **Equal Rights Amendment** on the way (finally!) to the US Constitution! “Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any state on account of sex.”
*Contact: McGrady, Edwards, Henson (now Jake Johnson), County Commissioners, City Council members (to tell them shame on them, to let our neighbor to the north take all the glory)*

*Historical note: ERA was first presented to Congress in1923, finally passed House and Senate in 1972. Hawaii was the first state to ratify in 1972. Virginia Senate and House passed it on 1-15-2020!*

***Postcard Party #111 Mar. 8, 2019***

**NC House HB 86 The Gun Violence Prevention Act: Proposes Common Sense Gun Policies**

Christy Clark, newly elected District 98 Rep and founder of NC Moms Demand Action, introduced a sweeping package of gun policy reforms that respect the tradition of responsible gun ownership while promoting gun safety & keeping dangerous weapons out of the wrong hands. The bill includes the following: 1. Implements universal background checks for all gun sales 2. Bans bump stocks 3. Raises legal age for purchase & possession of assault weapons from 18 to 21. Limits size of ammunition magazines 5. Requires safe storage & reporting of lost or stolen guns 6. Requires a permit for purchase of an assault weapon 7. Allows law enforcement to destroy seized weapons.

Suggested Action: Urge House Reps. Chuck McGrady (District 117) and Rep. Cody Henson (now Jake Johnson) (District 113) to support **HB 86.** Ask Senator Chuck Edwards to consider sponsoring a similar bill in the NC Senate.We cannot wait for the federal government to act, although the introduction and passage of the first positive gun policy legislation in 10 years in the US House, **HR8**, is a hopeful sign. A number of states, frustrated by prolonged federal inaction, have been highly successful in the passage of sensible state gun legislation to protect their citizens. North Carolina should be among them.