



NC Citizens for Public Health

North Carolina Citizens for Public Health Legislative Priorities 2023

These priorities were selected after reviewing the 2023 legislative priority lists from the following organizations:

- North Carolina Public Health Association (NCPHA),
- North Carolina Alliance for Health (NCAH),
- North Carolina Association of Local Health Directors (NCALHD), and
- North Carolina Association of County Commissioners (NCACC) and
- NC Justice Center/Health Policy Watch NCJC).

In addition, the NC Local Health Department Accreditation and NC Nurses Association (NCNA) submitted a priority for consideration.

1. SUPPORT legislation that closes the health insurance coverage gap (**Medicaid Expansion**) if needed.
2. SUPPORT passage of the **SAVE Bill** which would increase access to primary health care by removing the barriers to full practice authority by Nurse Practitioners.
3. PROMOTE policies that increases access to **healthy food in schools and childcare centers**, such as school meals for all and farm-to-schools policies and support passage of federal legislation such as Child Nutrition **Reauthorization and the Farm Bill**
4. SUPPORT increased **funding for Local Health Departments**, including \$25M in recurring state appropriations, continued state funding for COVID and other communicable diseases, and restoration of state funding for accreditation and quality improvement programs (HB10).
5. SUPPORT restoring original legislative funding to the **North Carolina Local Health Department Accreditation Board** in the amount of \$1.25 million for the program to be administered, as well as provide quality improvement supports to local health departments to support and enhance public health infrastructure to NCIPH.
6. SUPPORT promoting a policy that establishes a retailer permitting system and raises the minimum legal age to purchase tobacco from 18 to 21 (**Tobacco21**) and promote increased and recurring appropriation for robust and evidence-based tobacco **prevention and cessation programs and services**.
7. SUPPORT increased funding for **mental health resources**, \$1B in Gov. Cooper's budget proposal.
8. SUPPORT **gun violence prevention efforts**, including adoption of the NCPHA resolution declaring firearm violence a public health crisis, support for HBills 281 (red flag law), 283 (permitting and background checks), and 284 (allowing law enforcement to destroy confiscated firearms), and opposition to SB41 (repealing pistol permit law).
9. SUPPORT policies that identify barriers to health and **reduce health** inequities, including policies related to housing, transportation, environmental toxins, access to personal hygiene products and equitable pay and leave.
10. ENDORSE any proposed legislation on a variety of **workplace safety and health issues** including such things as the **109-workplace safety officer vacant positions** and supporting a variety of health issues that **increase maternal and child health**, including:
 - Guarantee North Carolina workers the right to pregnancy and lactation accommodations.
 - Guarantee North Carolina workers the right to use their sick day to care for a sick loved one, seek preventive care, and deal with the physical, mental, or legal impacts of domestic violence, sexual assault, or stalking.
 - Address paid family leave benefit in North Carolina.