North Carolina Worker’s Dilemma - Increased exposure risk, unemployment & loss of insurance

- >105K NC residents lost employer sponsored health insurance in 3/2020
- >800K NC residents have filed for unemployment insurance benefits as of 5/12/20
- Hardworking NC laborers have high rates of no insurance & are unable to work from home

Support These Measures in the Upcoming Relief Package

Farmworkers

/> Backbone of $70B industry in NC needed to feed Americans, yet 85% are uninsured

Support Medicaid coverage for H-2A workers for upholding this critical NC industry

Essential Non-Healthcare Workers

/> Not receiving adequate training, PPE & sanitization supplies for protection; do not have paid leave, job security

Enforce OSHA work safety protections, guarantee healthcare access

Persons Experiencing Homelessness

/> Increased risk of rapid transmission due to unstable housing, lack of access to testing & healthcare

Support Emergency Rental Assistance Voucher Program & early testing of this population

Nursing Homes

/> Bulk of NC COVID-19 cases with disproportionately high mortality rates; ⅓ cases are facility staff (many uninsured)

Fund facilities for PPE, provide access to care for COVID-19 for all staff as essential frontline workers

Disparities Among Racial & Ethnic Minorities

/> Disproportionately experiencing economic strife, hospitalizations & deaths from COVID-19 (e.g. Navajo Nation has highest cases per capita)

Expand funding to the Indian Health Service, FQHCs to provide testing, triage and care for COVID-19

Incarcerated Individuals

/> NC correctional facility outbreaks put the whole community at risk

Support Medicaid eligibility & selective release, funding to facilities for PPE

References:

2. Economic Policy Institute. April 2020. 3.5 million workers likely lost their employer-provided health insurance in the past two weeks. Ben Zipperer & Josh Bivens.