

January 11, 2020

Tom Miller  
1110 Virginia Avenue  
Durham, NC 27705

Dear Tom:

I want to thank the People's Alliance for your endorsement in 2016. I have been grateful for your help and input. As governor, I have fought hard for a North Carolina where all people are better educated, healthier, and have more money in their pockets. In my next term, I will continue to fight for fairness, for stronger public schools and better educator pay, for access to affordable health care and Medicaid expansion, and good-paying jobs.

I'm fighting for real pay increases for teachers and other educators while vetoing Republican budgets that value tax breaks for corporations instead of investments in public education salaries, supplies, technology, training and bonds to build new schools. I oppose vouchers that siphon money away from public schools. I support strong standards for all schools, particularly charter schools that currently operate with little accountability or oversight. I support strong standards for all schools including charter schools. While some charters are strong, we see troubling trends, such as a re-segregation of the student population, or misuse of state funds without a way to make the wrongdoers reimburse taxpayers.

I will keep fighting for Medicaid expansion until the legislative Republicans agree. Thousands of working North Carolinians fall into the coverage gap. Let me be absolutely clear: no person in this state should have to choose between basic necessities and access to quality health care that saves lives. Expanding Medicaid would cover an estimated 500,000 or more North Carolinians with health care. It would boost the economy by \$4 billion and create an estimated 40,000 jobs. In addition, while the federal government has to make the Veterans Affairs health care system work for their patients, Medicaid expansion would cover thousands of veterans who are presently without care.

In addition to vetoing bad Republican budgets that valued corporate tax cuts over investments in education, clean water and better health care, I've stopped in its tracks extreme right-wing social legislation that's wrong for our people and our economy. I issued an Executive Order to make North Carolina the first state in the south to ban state funding to any organization that engages in conversion therapy, a scientifically dubious and dangerous practice that is harmful to the LGBTQ community. I also worked with members of both parties to repeal HB2 to fight discrimination and repair the damage to North Carolina's economy and reputation.

Public safety and law enforcement is another area that needs continued reforms to succeed. As the former top law enforcement officer, I know how important it is that those in public safety look like the communities they serve. Successful recruiting of diverse candidates for those jobs continues. And as Governor I put people of color in the top jobs: Commander of the State Highway Patrol and Secretary of the Department of Public Safety.

In addition, law enforcement should emphasize community policing to be part of the neighborhoods they serve, push training for de-escalating conflict, and utilize mental health training and mental health courts to keep those suffering from mental illness out of the criminal court system. Instilling awareness of mental health with law enforcement is critical to wholly address public safety, as is extending resources to those released from prison so they can succeed rather than reoffend. In addition, a complete evaluation of our drug laws and a sincere conversation about sentencing reform must occur.

Public safety also requires decisive action on guns. I am a strong proponent of common-sense gun reforms to stop gun-related crimes. I have called on the legislature to pass a red flag law to take guns from those who are known threats to themselves or others. I will keep pushing for a universal background check law.

Though the legislature has refused to work with me to make our communities safe from guns, I have used my executive authority to make progress. I signed an Executive Directive to strengthen background checks to keep guns from criminals and the dangerously mentally ill.

With this [Executive Directive](#), we've taken concrete steps to promote firearm safety and responsible gun ownership, including strengthening the background check system and protections from domestic terrorism and improving the public health and incident response.

I believe that the autonomy for local sheriffs give them the ability to make unique decisions to make their communities safer and to put their resources to use in a way that maximizes that safety. I vetoed House Bill 370, a bill that would have given the legislature the ability to remove a sheriff if they did not detain an individual at ICE request, because it is unconstitutional and undermines that critical authority our sheriffs have always had.

While fighting for healthy and safe communities, I will also keep working for prosperity for all. I am greatly concerned about rising income inequality and wage growth, a concern many of us share. I support raising North Carolina's minimum wage and if a \$15 minimum wage bill comes to my desk — I will sign it. Additionally, expanding Medicaid can significantly support those struggling to make ends meet by drastically cutting insurance costs for North Carolina people.

Fighting to make sure North Carolinians have access to clean air and clean water is how we build a true line of defense against climate change. To date, my administration has secured historic environmental wins. We've ordered Duke Energy to dig up coal ash ponds in North Carolina and worked to establish permanent water supplies for residents who have spent years drinking bottled water because of the Duke Coal Ash spill. We launched a Clean Energy Plan and established a goal to cut North Carolina's greenhouse gas emissions by 40% by 2025 and get to zero by 2050 and renewed our state's commitment to the Paris Agreement environmental treaty in defiance of President Donald Trump. We've fought offshore drilling and have stood against those who would threaten our coastal economy and our beaches. We need to continue to invest in renewables and make sure we remain on the road to a carbon neutral North Carolina.

When I ran for Governor, I made it a point to talk about the need for non-partisan redistricting and I still believe it is one of the most critical changes we could make in North Carolina. Politicians should not pick their voters; voters should pick their politicians. And we can see the impacts of technologically diabolical gerrymandering are far-reaching. This legislature has engaged in systematic voter suppression that a federal court found targeted African Americans with surgical precision. I have used every tool in the toolbox to fight these efforts. We have fought to increase early voting, defeat voter ID, make voter registration available online, and secure the integrity of our elections.

As I have traveled across the state, I've seen that housing is an increasing challenge in both rural and urban areas and I am eager to work with local and federal housing entities and community members to determine the appropriate course of action to expand the state's currently limited role to ensure North Carolinians have access to affordable housing.

I am committed to advocating for the issues that matter to North Carolinians and to People's Alliance PAC. I look forward to seeking your continued advice as we fight for a North Carolina that works for all of us and would be honored to receive your endorsement.

Very Truly Yours,

Roy Cooper