



LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS® OF NORTH CAROLINA

Health Care League Action Team – 04-Apr-2017

LWV Recommends:	Currently:
<p>Make NC thrive by assuring health care coverage for all our citizens:</p> <p>Healthy work force = Healthy economy</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NC rankings according to America’s Health Report¹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 31st for Overall Health • 31st for Poor Physical Health • 33rd for Premature Deaths • 42nd for Public Health Funding - very low at \$44 per person • 36th for Lack of Health Insurance - 14.4% of the population ■ NC showed the biggest improvement in the nation in Overall Health rank (2015 versus 2014) due to improvements in immunizations... emphasizing the importance of long-term public health efforts¹ ■ States that expanded coverage options saw much larger drops in uninsured rates among low to moderate income people²
<p>Health care coverage to protect the most vulnerable North Carolinians: children, elderly, and the severely disabled</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NC rankings according to America’s Health Report¹: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 30th for Health of its Senior Population • 39th for Children in Poverty • 42nd for Infant Mortality • 40th for Low Birth Weight ■ NC ranks 40th for Eligibility; only 10 states make it harder for parents to get Medicaid ■ Approximately 70% of Medicaid recipients are in families with at least one person working. Of the 30% not working, three out of four are either ill, caregivers, or students
<p>Health care coverage for people struggling with Mental Health and Opioid addiction, including veterans</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NC ranks 22nd for Poor Mental Health¹ ■ NC ranks 45th for Number of Uninsured Veterans¹ ■ Three NC towns are in the top 16 Nationally for highest abuse of opioid prescriptions - Wilmington, Fayetteville, and Hickory³ ■ Wilmington has the highest opioid abuse rate in the Nation³
<p>Health care coverage for all our citizens to alleviate financial instability of our rural hospitals</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ NC ranks 48th for Disparity in Health Status (based on disparity of educational achievement)¹ ■ Rural hospitals have a high rate of uncompensated care resulting in significant risk of financial distress⁴ ■ DSH payments for uncompensated care are phasing out

(1) America’s Health Rankings Annual Report 2015
 (2) Kaiser Family Foundation Analysis of 2015 Census Bureau Data
 (3) Cast Light Health Report on the Opioid Crisis 2016
 (4) NC Rural Health Research Program Oct 2016