



**Association of North Carolina Boards of Health Resolution in support of
Closing North Carolina's Medicaid Coverage Gap**

WHEREAS, healthy citizens and access to affordable health care are key to North Carolina's economy and critical to business, government, healthcare and families across North Carolina;

WHEREAS, Medicaid Expansion will close the coverage gap for over 600,000 North Carolinians;

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap would drive \$11.7 billion in new business and healthcare activity, generate \$500 million in new state revenue, \$100 million in new county revenue, and create 37,000 new jobs across North Carolina over a three-year period;

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap is critical to provide access to healthcare and mental healthcare, which are of particular importance following a natural disaster;

WHEREAS, closing the gap will stimulate small businesses, many of which cannot afford to offer insurance to employees, and entrepreneurs, and support a healthy and available workforce which is essential to the business community;

WHEREAS, closing the health insurance coverage gap would provide access to behavioral health care, which is the starting point of addressing the opioid epidemic;

WHEREAS, federal funding from taxes that North Carolinians have already paid will cover 90% of the cost of closing the health insurance coverage gap. Additional incentive funds will flow under the American Rescue Plan with a two-year, five percent increase in the federal match rate for Medicaid, which will bring an additional \$1.7 billion to NC over the next two years.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

Association of North Carolina Boards of Health urges the North Carolina General Assembly to close the coverage gap in North Carolina with Medicaid Expansion.

This resolution shall be effective on and after its passage and shall be shared with the members of the North Carolina General Assembly.

ADOPTED THIS 1ST DAY OF FEBRUARY, TWO THOUSAND TWENTY THREE

Jean Douglas

Board President

Merle Green

Executive Director