



The Honorable Beverly Eaves Perdue  
Office of the Governor  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-0301

May 31, 2011

Dear Governor Perdue,

We write to you now to express our deep concern with the pending compromise state budget proposal in the legislature. The joint House and Senate budget would abandon North Carolina's traditional commitment to education, economic growth and innovation in favor of an inflexible and ideological approach to managing our state's resources.

While legislative leaders have reportedly restored some funding to K-12 education, let us be clear: the budget as proposed will still cost thousands of public school personnel their jobs and is far from a laudable and forward-thinking investment in education. Millions of dollars cut from one of our most critical public structures is nothing to stand up for.

Moreover, the legislative budget still:

- Undermines our system of early childhood education that is copied around the nation;
- Cuts billions out of essential health care programs such as Medicaid, does significant damage to mental health services, and hampers the progress made towards reducing obesity and smoking by eliminating the Health & Wellness Trust Fund;
- Dramatically reduces the affordability and quality of our stellar public universities and community colleges that are the envy of states around us and essential to ensuring that we are globally competitive;
- Slashes millions out of our public safety institutions and community-based programs, and restricts access to the courts through regressive fees;
- Threatens our natural places and basic infrastructure such as roads, rail, water, and sewer by nearly eliminating the Clean Water Management Trust Fund, dismantling DENR, and limiting environmental regulations to minimal federal requirements.

The compromise budget put forward by the legislature is nothing to be proud of.

What's most frustrating is that all of these cuts would be mitigated, if not completely restored, if legislators chose the simple solution: maintaining our current tax rates.

Soon, the legislative budget will be on your desk and it will be up to you to decide whether North Carolina goes forward or backwards. Whether we chart a path to economic recovery or stumble

over more job losses. Whether we maintain our commitment to a strong quality of life or dismantle the public structures that make this state great.

We know you have a heavy responsibility on your shoulders.

But we also know that you have stood up for our state before and that you believe in North Carolina's future, education, health care, clean water, and safe communities.

In the coming days, we urge you to stay strong and keep us moving forward. We ask that you use your veto power to reject the legislature's damaging budget and instead, chart an alternative path forward that includes revenue and a strong commitment to all of the public investments in our state.

Sincerely,

AARP NC  
Action NC  
Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Campaign  
of North Carolina (APPCNC)  
Albemarle Area United Way  
Alcohol and Drug Council of North Carolina  
American Friends Service Committee  
Association of Home and Hospice Care  
Autism Society of NC  
Be Healthy Ministries  
BJM Speech / Language Therapy & Rehab  
Services  
Capital Area Friends of Transit  
Caring Arms Youth and Family  
Carolina Justice Policy Center  
Caught Before Fallen Dropout Prevention  
Initiative Program  
Center for Participatory Change  
CFED  
CFSA-NC  
Chapel Hill Community Church UU Peace  
& Social Justice Committee  
Chapel Hill Friend Meetings, Peace &  
Social Concerns Committee  
Cheshire Center  
Child Care Health Consultant Program  
Children First / Communities in Schools of  
Buncombe County  
Coalition for Family Peace  
Coastal Speech Center  
Common Cause North Carolina

Community Reinvestment Association of  
NC  
Community Service Network, Inc  
Consumer Credit Counseling Service of  
Fayetteville  
Covenant with North Carolina's Children,  
Inc.  
Cumberland Community Action Program,  
Inc.  
Democracy at Home  
Democracy North Carolina  
Disability Action Network  
Disability Rights NC  
EITC Carolinas at MDC, Inc.  
El Pueblo, Inc.  
EMOTIONS Organization  
Environment North Carolina  
Fair Trial Initiative  
Family Violence and Rape Crisis Services  
FIRST  
First in Families of NC  
Fitness Motivations, Ltd.  
Foundation for Evergreen, Inc.  
Friends of Residents in Long Term Care  
Girls Incorporated of Wilmington  
Good Work  
Guardian Ad Litem Program, District 9  
Haven House Services  
IDA and Asset-Building Collaborative of  
NC  
Just Economics

League of Women Voters NC  
League of Women Voters of Asheville and  
Buncombe County  
League of Women Voters of Wake County  
Legal Services of Southern Piedmont  
MDC, Inc.  
Missions Unlimited, LLC  
Moms Rising  
Ms. Bea's Childcare Center  
NAMI Cabarrus County  
NAMI NC  
NARAL Pro-Choice North Carolina  
NASW- NC Chapter  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
NC Adult Day Services Association  
NC AFL-CIO  
NC Aids Action Network  
NC Alliance for Health  
NC Association for the Deaf  
NC Association of Local Health Directors  
NC Association of Teacher Assistants  
NC Center for Nonprofits  
NC Child Care Coalition  
NC Coalition Against Domestic Violence  
NC Coalition Against Sexual Assault  
NC Coalition to End Homelessness  
NC Community Action Association  
NC Community Development Initiative  
NC Conservation Network  
NC Council of Churches  
NC Council of Community Programs  
NC Fair Share  
NC Housing Coalition  
NC Justice Center  
NC Latino Coalition  
NC Minority Support Center  
NC NAACP  
NC Psychological Association  
NC Schools Community Health Alliance  
NC Tuberos Sclerosis Association, Inc.  
NC Voters for Clean Elections  
NCAE  
North Carolina Harm Reduction Coalition  
(NCHRC)  
North Carolina League of Conservation  
Voters

North Carolina National Organization for  
Women (NC NOW)  
North Carolina Protecting the Public Interest  
North Carolina Social Justice Project, Inc.  
North Carolina Speech, Hearing, and  
Language Assoc.  
North Carolinians Against Gun Violence  
Partnerships in Assistive Technology  
Perfectly Speaking, LLC  
Person-Centered Partnerships, Inc.  
Planned Parenthood Health Systems, Inc.  
Planned Parenthood of Central NC  
Raleigh Therapy Services, Inc.  
Rocky Mount OIC  
Rogers Road Neighborhood Association  
SEANC / SEIU  
Self-Help Credit Union  
Senior PharmAssist  
Sierra's Residential Services, Inc.  
Southeastern Speech  
Southlight, Inc / NC Substance Abuse Fed.  
Speech Language Disability Services  
Speechcenter, Inc.  
Teamsters Local 391  
The Coalition  
Transition Carrboro / Chapel Hill, Two Way  
Street Committee  
Triangle Alliance of Retired Americans  
Triangle OWL  
UE 150 - North Carolina Public Service  
Workers Union  
Unifour OneStop Collaborative  
United Way of Asheville & Buncombe  
County  
United Way of North Carolina  
Venture Rehab Group  
Western North Carolina Central Labor  
Council  
Western Carolinians for Criminal Justice  
Women for Women  
Working Families Win  
Young Adults Making a Difference, Inc.  
YWCA of Asheville and Western North  
Carolina