

Cooper Calls On Legislative Leaders To Work Together In Recovery

By Administrator

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Governor Roy Cooper's State of the State address speech highlighted North Carolinians' resilience throughout the pandemic and reinforced the need for legislators to work together to help the state rebuild from the pandemic even stronger by expanding Medicaid, raising teacher pay, investing in workforce training and solidifying the state's infrastructure. "I believe that North Carolina is Strong, Resilient and Ready to face the challenges of the future," said Governor Cooper. "I believe that we will rebuild from this pandemic to be even stronger than before. And I believe that we can roar into the future together, creating a shared recovery that ensures our best days lie ahead."

North Carolina is one of few states that has not expanded Medicaid. Now, with even more federal dollars available, the governor urged both parties to work together and get this done. Medicaid expansion would provide billions of federal dollars to cover over 500,000 North Carolinians, help rural hospitals, provide mental health services and keep working people healthy.

Governor Cooper also pushed for more workforce training to ensure students and adult workers can find fulfilling, good-paying jobs, as more companies from all over continue to bring new jobs to the state.

The Governor called on legislators to invest in K-12 and higher education, teacher pay, infrastructure, high-speed internet, clean energy economic development for a stronger and more prosperous future.

"In a year of hardship and loss, we owe it to ourselves and each other – and, as leaders, we owe it to the people who elected us – to build a state that is truly more educated, equitable, healthier and prosperous," said Governor Cooper.

Throughout the speech, Gov. Cooper recognized North Carolinians who have supported their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

Felecia Young, Salisbury; Sixth Grade Math Teacher at Knox Middle School

Dr. Karen Smith, Raeford; Provider at Independent Family Practice

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Cecil Conrad, Lexington; Owner of The Bar-B-Q Center

Cassandra Brooks, Clayton; Owner of The Little Believers Academy

Natesha Fields, New Bern; Nurse at CarolinaEast Medical Center

Chris Morris, High Point; President, Custom Contract Furnishings

Lexine Merrill, Monroe; Critical Care Nurse

Lieutenant Colonel David Walliser, Raleigh; Lieutenant Colonel, North Carolina National Guard

Anderson "Andy" Warlick, Gastonia; CEO, Parkdale Mills