

DURHAM BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

Resolution

**RESOLUTION FOR SUPPORT OF RESOLVING THE FY 2019 - 2020 NC STATE BUDGET
IMPASSE**

- WHEREAS,** § 115C-1. A general and uniform system of free public schools shall be provided throughout the State, wherein equal opportunities shall be provided for all students, in accordance with the provisions of Article IX of the Constitution of North Carolina; and
- WHEREAS,** § 115C-47. It shall be the duty of local boards of education to provide students with the opportunity to receive a sound basic education and to make all policy decisions with that objective in mind, including employment decisions, budget development, and other administrative actions, within their respective local school administrative units, as directed by law; and
- WHEREAS,** local Boards of County Commission must allocate local taxpayer money to cover the state's increasing cost of growing student populations, retirement, and staff benefits; and
- WHEREAS,** Local Education Agencies (LEAs) have hired grades K-3 teachers and assistants to comply with recent class size legislation independent of state funds and are unable to effectively plan due to the budget impasse leading to the reduction of fund balances; and
- WHEREAS,** LEAs have just learned that funding which was generated for FY 18-19 for new school psychologists in the wake of school shootings will not be continued for FY 19-20 forcing LEAs to further allocate fund balances towards this initiative; and
- WHEREAS,** because of the budget impasse, LEAs face staffing challenges that can create irreversible damage to the public-school system when positions are left unfilled or are filled by substitutes for extended periods of time; and
- WHEREAS,** North Carolina classrooms operate with school funding 2.9 percent below pre-Recession levels when adjusted for enrollment growth and inflation resulting in continuous asks of county commissioners to increase property tax rates; and
- WHEREAS,** the expansion of Medicaid in North Carolina would provide 464,000 people affordable care under the current federal plan where 90% of the cost is paid for by the federal government and 10% by hospitals and health plans; and
- WHEREAS,** the educators, administrators, parents, and students across the state of North Carolina have learned that the reason for the budget impasse, and possibly going a full fiscal year without a budget, is Medicaid expansion and having educated ourselves as to the effects of Medicaid expansion in North Carolina, particularly the impact on our students' families; and
- WHEREAS,** we have learned about the specific benefits of Medicaid expansion in our rural counties, particularly in their ability to keep hospitals open and employ medical professionals; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Durham County Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina General Assembly end the current budget impasse by submitting a budget which includes Medicaid expansion; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER, that the Durham County Board of Commissioners requests that the North Carolina Senate end the current budget impasse by submitting a budget that includes a 5% increase for all public-school employees, including retirees

Approved and adopted this 12th day November 2019.

Wendy Jacobs, Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

James Hill, Jr., Vice-Chair
Durham Board of County Commissioners

