
THE COALITION OF UNITED PROGRESSIVES CHARMECK CHRONICLE



Greetings!

We truly appreciate everyone's involvement.
This War on Oppression will only be won as one mass
movement.

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Our Mission Statement

The continual unification of as many organizations as possible, starting at the local level and branching out to both the state of North Carolina and then the entire nation.

Spotlight

At Last! Medicaid Expansion!



By
DonnaMarie Woodson

On Monday, March 27, 2023, at the Executive Mansion, I had the honor of witnessing Governor Roy Cooper sign into law a historical accomplishment for the state of North Carolina.

The passage of Medicaid Expansion law!

A decade in the making, this Expansion will help the over 600,000 North Carolinians who have been without coverage, thereby saving lives and giving Democrats a legacy-setting victory!



At the ceremony, attended by hundreds, including the North Carolina Team of the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN) of which I've been a Lead Advocate since 2017,

Governor Cooper celebrated the passage of expansion legislation, which he's ardently sought since being first elected governor in 2016.

It took Republicans in charge of the General Assembly all this time – over a decade, to come around to the idea and agree to offer coverage to more low-income adults, with federal coffers paying for most of it.

Medicaid Expansion, in every state, is a vital provision of the Affordable Care Act. This expansion would help close the coverage gap for those who made too much for Medicaid but too little to afford Marketplace plans.

However, in 2012 In National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) v. Sebelius, the Court for the first time found that a federal condition on a grant to states was unconstitutionally coercive. This conclusion was reached by Chief Justice Roberts in an opinion joined by Justices Breyer and Kagan. The same conclusion also was reached in the unsigned dissenting opinion joined by Justices Scalia, Kennedy, Thomas, and Alito, yielding a seven-justice majority.

Justice Ginsburg, joined by Justice Sotomayor, disagreed with the majority view, and found that the ACA's Medicaid expansion was a constitutional exercise of Congress' spending power.

This Supreme Court ruling gave the Republican run States the very out they needed to deny millions of Americans access to healthcare.

Governor Cooper - "We've worked hard on this for my entire time as governor, and I'm grateful to the advocates across the state who've spent years fighting for this:



Child welfare advocates, health care workers, veterans' groups, hospitals, people of faith, Care 4 Carolina, and dozens of nonprofit groups, business leaders, sheriffs, and local elected officials from both parties who've seen the toll of this crisis up close, and

uninsured workers who bravely told their personal stories.

Quality health care should be accessible to *all*. Medicaid expansion will help so many more working families, young adults, and other folks living paycheck to paycheck get the care they need.”

Medicaid expansion will also help save rural hospitals to ensure care is there when and where residents need it. It will save our state millions.



It will save lives.



Governor Cooper thanked the Democratic legislators and a few Republican legislators who never wavered in their support for Medicaid expansion. And, to the Republican legislative leaders who ultimately approached this issue with a willingness to

change their minds to find a solution that worked for North Carolina.

On the impact in North Carolina...

North Carolina has the 4th highest number of people in the coverage gap and is the first state to expand by legislative action since 2018. Because of Medicaid expansion, more than 600,000 residents will

now have a path to affordable, quality health coverage, reducing the cancer burden in the state – North Carolina’s leading cause of death.



NC ACSCAN w/ President Lisa Lacasse (sunglasses)

At the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network (ACSCAN) we are hopeful that the bipartisan agreement to expand Medicaid in North Carolina can serve as a model for other states ACSCAN continues to advocate in.

As Sam Cooke sang in 1964. “It’s been a long time coming but a change is gonna come.” Medicaid Expansion!

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Editorial

No, it is Not a “Bad Neighborhood.”

By

Tarik Kiley

3/26/2023

As a kid of the 1980’s and early 1990’s, I was often exposed to talk about “bad neighborhoods.” The bad neighborhoods were the neighborhoods that were undesirable, as they were predominately Black, poor and were assumed to be ridden with crime. In fact, as an



adult, I would learn about the “Broken Windows Theory,” which stated that policing should take a zero-tolerance approach to dealing with disorder in certain communities. The idea

is that small aspects of disorder would lead to larger forms of disorder if left unchecked.

Unfortunately, African Americans have been perceived as having more disorder in neighborhoods than Whites. This perception has led to excessive policing in Black, urban neighborhoods, or at least as could be observed in the 1980’s and 1990’s. Of course, no one came right out and said that by “bad neighborhoods”, they meant poor and Black, but it was understood to be so.

Now, in retrospect, “bad neighborhoods” were the neighborhoods that were economically neglected, and then blamed for their neglect. Somehow, the concentration of poverty, particularly in the inner city, was perceived to be the fault of the people who lived there and not the fault of systematic policy.



Now many years later, I realize that some neighborhoods were invested in, and some neighborhoods were left economically neglected. Particularly, the explosion of development in America’s suburbs, post

WWII, was a prime example of economic investment in certain neighborhoods.

Also, residential segregation and class divisions left some neighborhoods with a plethora of resources and some with little resources at all. Political disinvestment in schools and other forms of public infrastructure also led to the development of “bad neighborhoods,” as well.



And policies such as “redlining” and other political actions created economic winners and economic losers, too.



Also, the availability of the automobile and the creation of the highway system, allowed affluent White people to live in the suburbs, and to travel with a certain amount of freedom through suburban space.

At this point, there was the idea of the commuter, where people drove to work in automobiles to central business districts, and back to the suburbs to live and play. The highway system allowed the suburban residents to bypass inner city neighborhoods, almost altogether.

On another note, this is why public transportation could be a great tool of equity. The poverty of living in neglected urban areas was also exacerbated by the lack of mobility and accessibility. A well-functioning public transportation system reduces the cost of individuals accessing space, and could possibly accelerate desegregation, as people are no longer restricted to living and playing in certain neighborhoods.



How are “Bad Neighborhoods” to be Perceived as “Good Neighborhoods?”

The idea is that the Black working class living in whatever neighborhood needs to be empowered to pursue economic development and other economic opportunities regardless of the space. No one should be forced into a “ghetto” devoid of economic investment. In fact, one example of investing in the space, particularly in Charlotte, NC is a coffee shop called,

“Archive CLT”



Cheryse Terry



Archive CLT is a coffee shop that opened in west Charlotte on August 27th, 2022. Cheryse Terry owns this Black-owned business located on Beatties Ford Rd and Lasalle St. This shop is

full of artwork celebrating Black culture. This artwork is important because it is an affirmation of a counternarrative against the idea of bad neighborhoods.

Changing the narrative also requires a psychological shift for African Americans. Instead of seeing blight in our neighborhoods and wanting to escape—as natural as that is—someone needs to play the role of economic developer, and work to invest in previously neglected spaces. It also means there is a need to stop seeing Black people as unwanted inhabitants and for us to stop seeing one another as undesirable. We must shift our thinking and start to celebrate our culture, and we need to promote the positive aspects of our culture as the owner of the “Archive CLT” Coffee Shop does.



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Announcements



Democrats of North Mecklenburg:
Monthly Meeting
Thursday, April 6th at 6:30 PM

Democratic Women of North Mecklenburg County
April Membership Meeting
Wednesday, April 8th
Caldwell Presbyterian Church
6:30 pm – Meet and Great
7:00pm Program

N. Meck Progressives
Monthly Meeting, Tuesday, April 11th
6:30 pm



**Please submit your group events to donnamarie93@gmail.com
by the 15th of the month for inclusion in the Announcements.**

Happenings Gallery



Medicaid Expansion Passes NC Senate with Bipartisan Support, 44-2



The Executive Corner:

**Rev Rodney Sadler, Joel Segal, DonnaMarie Woodson
Rev Glencie Rhedrick**

Coalition of United Progressives-CharMeck Chronicle

Editor: DonnaMarie Woodson

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