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Large Majorities of North Carolina Voters Support Access to Affordable Health Care and Creation of Insurance Product for Those in the Coverage Gap

RALEIGH—A recent Mason-Dixon Poll indicates an overwhelming majority of North Carolina voters believe that everyone should have access to affordable health care and would support creation of a North Carolina health insurance product for those working people who are in the health insurance coverage gap.

According to the poll, 84% of those asked, responded that everyone in the state should have access to affordable health care. Perhaps more importantly, 71% of those asked would support creating a North Carolina health insurance product for the working poor.

“This poll shows that North Carolinians are ready for a North Carolina solution for closing the coverage gap in our state,” said Carla Obiol, Director of Care4Carolina, a broad-based coalition working to find a health insurance solution for those citizens whose incomes are too low to qualify for subsidies in the federal marketplace and are not currently eligible for the state’s Medicaid program.

Nearly 340,000 uninsured North Carolinians would gain health insurance if North Carolina closed the coverage gap. Included in this group are working adults, farmers, fishermen, members of the clergy, small business owners, volunteer firefighters, service workers, caregivers and more than 12,000 veterans.

“There are many farm families suffering economically and physically because they simply cannot afford to buy health insurance, which means they can’t get the prevention and treatment they need. In a state that relies so heavily on agriculture, it is critical that we keep our farmers healthy and their farms thriving. Access to affordable health insurance is a key element to our physical and economic security,” said Alex Hitt of Peregrine Farms in Alamance County.

“It is our duty to find an affordable health insurance solution for these hard-working men, women and families,” said Obiol. “These are the people that keep us safe and make sure our state works. They are not asking for a handout, simply the same peace of mind others have in knowing they have healthcare coverage and access to care,” she said.

“The voters have told us what they think. This is the year we need to stop talking about the issue of health insurance for working people, and start doing something about it,” said Obiol.

Support for creating an insurance program for North Carolinians who are ineligible for Medicaid due to income levels and are otherwise unable to afford health insurance polled well in all regions of the state and across party lines with 63% of Independents, 57% of Republicans and 86% of Democrats in support of the idea. The questions in the poll were paid for by Care4Carolina and the American Heart Association.

For more information on the poll results, please visit www.care4carolina.com.

The poll was conducted by Mason-Dixon Polling & Research, Inc of Jacksonville, Florida from November 17 through November 20, 2017. A total of 625 registered voters were interviewed statewide by telephone. Those interviewed were randomly selected from a phone-matched North Carolina voter registration list that included both land-line and cell phone numbers. Quotas were assigned to reflect voter registration by county. The margin for error is no more that plus or minus 4%.

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