



## **Statement on NC House Bill 662**

Mental Health America of Central Carolinas (MHA) encourages the state of North Carolina to expand its current Medicaid program in order to serve North Carolinians who earn up to 133 percent of the Federal Poverty Level (FPL). Nearly one in five North Carolinians under 65 are uninsured, thereby only seeking care, usually via visits to the emergency department, when they are injured or sick. Expansion of the NC Medicaid program could enable more than 300,000 low-income adults to gain health coverage, allowing them to get timely, affordable health care, including preventive and primary care that can help keep them healthy<sup>i</sup>. Expanding NC Medicaid could mean cost savings for the state by offsetting the cost of expansion with both Federal funds and decreases in uncompensated hospital visits.

As such, MHA applauds the introduction of HB 662, known as Carolina Cares. While not perfect, this legislation acts as a step toward ensuring medical coverage for adults ages 19 to 64 who would otherwise fall in the Medicaid “gap.”

---

<sup>i</sup> <http://www.conehealthfoundation.com/app/files/public/4202/The-Economic-and-Employment-Costs-of-Not-Expanding-Medicaid-in-North-Carolina.pdf>