



North Carolina Community Health Center Association Resolution Support Efforts to Curb Climate Change

WHEREAS, the mission of the North Carolina Community Health Center Association (NCCHCA) is to promote and support patient governed community health care organizations and the populations they serve; and

WHEREAS, scientific evidence for man-made causes of climate change has been overwhelmingly demonstrated¹; and

WHEREAS, the southeastern United States is currently experiencing increased coastal flooding, storm intensity, summer heat waves, poor air quality days in cities, wild fires, and vector-borne diseases;² and

WHEREAS, recent Hurricanes Matthew (2016), Florence (2018) caused significant facility, operational losses and patient injury across North Carolina community health centers³; and

WHEREAS, climate change threatens the fundamentals that sustain life and health—fresh water, food, clean air, shelter, and security endangering the health and sustainability of the communities we serve.⁴

WHEREAS, low-income communities are disproportionately affected by the health impacts of climate change⁵; and

WHEREAS, there are less than 30 years to make significant changes in human practices that contribute to green-house gases and global warming⁶; and

WHEREAS, community health centers are authorized under the US Public Health Act, and are key primary care delivery sites within the US public health infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, the Health Center Program Statute: Section 330 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. §254b) subsection (b)(2) authorizes health centers to provide additional services necessary for the adequate support of primary health services including environmental health services, including- (i) the detection and alleviation of unhealthful conditions associated with (I) water supply; (II) chemical and pesticide exposures; (III) air quality; and

WHEREAS, health centers are trusted partners with our patients and community to improve the health of our service area; and

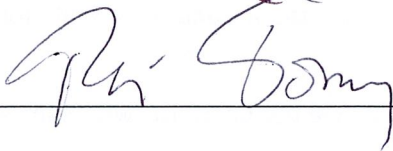
WHEREAS, On October 29, 2018 Governor Roy Cooper issued Executive Order No.80 North Carolina's Commitment to Address Climate Change and Transition to a Clean Energy Economy⁷; and

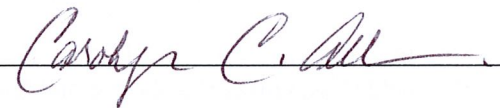
THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED THAT the NCCHCA Board of Directors hereby joins the public health community in calling upon local, state, and federal policy makers to adopt swift and effective legislation, considerate to the needs of low-income and vulnerable populations, to curb climate change.

We commit to:

- A) stewardship of our natural resources used in the operations of our facilities and services; and
- B) collaboration with federal, state, and local officials in identifying and implementing efforts to prevent and mitigate the effects of climate change at the local level.

Approved this 27 day of March 2019.

Chair 

Secretary 

¹ Climate Change Is The Greatest Threat To Human Health In History, " Health Affairs Blog, December 19, 2018. DOI: 10.1377/hblog20181218.278288

² Carter, L., A. Terando, K. Dow, K. Hiers, K.E. Kunkel, A. Lascrain, D. Marcy, M. Osland, and P. Schramm, 2018: **Southeast. In Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment**, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. Maycock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, pp. 743–808. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.CH19. On the Web: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/southeast>

³ NCCHCA Hurricane tracking reports

⁴ CLIMATE CHANGE, HEALTH, AND EQUITY: A GUIDE FOR LOCAL HEALTH DEPARTMENTS

⁵ Ebi, K.L., J.M. Balbus, G. Luber, A. Bole, A. Crimmins, G. Glass, S. Saha, M.M. Shimamoto, J. Trtanj, and J.L. White-Newsome, **2018: Human Health. In Impacts, Risks, and Adaptation in the United States: Fourth National Climate Assessment**, Volume II [Reidmiller, D.R., C.W. Avery, D.R. Easterling, K.E. Kunkel, K.L.M. Lewis, T.K. May- cock, and B.C. Stewart (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC, USA, pp. 572–603. doi: 10.7930/NCA4.2018.CH14. On the Web: <https://nca2018.globalchange.gov/chapter/health>

⁶ Climate Change Group, Office of the Chief Economist, The World Bank Group

⁷ <https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO80->

[%20NC%27s%20Commitment%20to%20Address%20Climate%20Change%20%26%20Transition%20to%20a%20Cle an%20Energy%20Economy.pdf](https://files.nc.gov/governor/documents/files/EO80-%20NC%27s%20Commitment%20to%20Address%20Climate%20Change%20%26%20Transition%20to%20a%20Cle an%20Energy%20Economy.pdf)