



NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

NORTH CAROLINA SENATE

April 24, 2020

Governor Roy Cooper
20301 Mail Service Center
Raleigh, NC 27699

VIA ELECTRONIC DELIVERY

Dear Governor Cooper,

I write regarding the state's uncertain fiscal position and to request that you instruct executive branch agencies to voluntarily find one percent savings in their budgets.

The most recent analysis from the legislature's economist projects a multi-billion dollar revenue shortfall through fiscal year 2021. While the state has built substantial reserves, we do not presently know how severe the economic downturn will be or how long it will last. In other words, we know we're falling off a cliff, but we don't know when we'll hit the ground below.

A one percent budget savings will provide an additional \$250 million in cushion for the state. I expect you agree that maintaining current government operations, including teacher positions and salaries, should be our top priority. The federal government does not permit states to use federal COVID-19 relief allocations for expenditures unrelated to the pandemic. Therefore, we must be prudent stewards of state taxpayer funds to avoid cuts to state government operations, especially education.

Thank you for your consideration. I look forward to working collaboratively to lead the state through this challenging time.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Senator Harry Brown in blue ink.

Senator Harry Brown

Handwritten signature of Senator Kathy Harrington in blue ink.

Senator Kathy Harrington

Handwritten signature of Senator Brent Jackson in blue ink.

Senator Brent Jackson