



## NCOA Podcast and PAC

The second episode of the NCOA podcast was released last month and features Dr. Cynthia Emory, Vice-Chair of Orthopaedic Surgery at Atrium Health Wake Forest Baptist. This episode focuses on the importance of telehealth licensure and additional preauthorization flexibility for NC patients.



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## NCOA Legislative Update March 2022

The North Carolina Supreme Court has accepted new state house and senate maps drawn by lawmakers, in response to its earlier ruling that Republican drawn districts were gerrymandered and violated state constitutional protections. Instead of accepting the congressional map, the Court approved a remedial map drawn by three court-appointed Special Masters. GOP lawmakers have filed a petition with the US Supreme Court seeking an emergency stay blocking the use of the recently approved districts in the upcoming election. While it is unclear if the Supreme Court will take up the case, candidate filing for mid-terms ended on March 4th and primary election day is slated for May 17th.

The newly-established Joint Legislative Committee on Access to Healthcare and Medicaid Expansion convened for the first time on March 1st. This comes as Republican leaders have hinted at a potential vote on a Medicaid expansion deal before the November elections. During this meeting, key stakeholders, such as state Medicaid director Dave Richard, addressed lawmakers and detailed the current advantages to expansion. Another speaker, president of the NC Rural Center Patrick Woodie, acknowledged that reducing the coverage gap will improve the quality of life of rural North Carolinians. More information about the meeting can be found here.

Many nearby states have attempted to address their CON laws. At the end of January, the South Carolina Senate passed a bill eliminating the state's CON program. In West Virginia, a bill for the full repeal of the state's CON program failed in the Health and Human Services Committee. Following this, lawmakers have begun to take a "piece-meal approach" by removing the code section for certain services like birthing centers and opioid treatment centers. Meanwhile, an eye doctor from New Bern, Dr. Jay Singleton, has filed a brief at the NC Court of Appeals to allow his case against the state's CON program to proceed. More about his suit can be read here, and more about CON reform in the region can be found here.

Former Director of NC's Department of Health and Human Services, Dr. Mandy Cohen, will become the executive vice president of health IT company Adelaide, along with chief executive officer of its new health services unit Adelaide Care Solutions.

Gov. Cooper has appointed Dr. Satish Mathan of Raleigh and Dr. Vaishali Nadkarni of Cary as at-large members to the NC State Health Coordinating Council.