**Resolution to Oppose Medicaid Expansion and Reduce Government Dependency**

**WHEREAS**, the North Carolina General Assembly has introduced House Bill 76 (Access to Healthcare Options; hereinafter referred to as “HB 76”) in an effort to expand Medicaid in North Carolina beginning upon passage of the state budget; and

**WHEREAS**, HB 76, pursuant to the Affordable Care Act, would expand Medicaid eligibility to individuals with annual incomes up to 138 percent of the federal poverty level; and

**WHEREAS**, Medicaid expansion would significantly expand the number of North Carolinians dependent upon government for their healthcare coverage. Based on estimates from the Urban Institute in 2022, well over 600,000 individuals will become eligible as a result of Medicaid expansion. Currently, more than 1 in 4 Stanly County residents are enrolled in Medicaid, and the proposed expansion will increase this ratio to approximately 1 in 3; and

**WHEREAS**, coverage does not equal access to care. According to a 2019 Civitas Institute report, 83 percent of North Carolina doctors are at full capacity or are already overextended. In addition, according to the North Carolina Office of Rural Health data as of March 2022, a total of 91 counties are already designated as “health professional shortage areas” for primary care, dental health and mental/behavioral health; and

**WHEREAS**, proponents of expansion argue the cost to North Carolina will be minimal since the State’s nonfederal share match is initially 5% due to the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) incentive; however, the ARPA incentive will expire in two (2) years, leaving the State’s estimated non-federal share to be $500-$600 million per year; and

**WHEREAS**, healthier people crowd out care for more needy populations. The majority of those eligible under expansion are able-bodied, working-age adults with no children. Under expansion, these people will be competing for scarce medical care, and will often crowd out access to care for the traditional Medicaid population, which includes poor children, pregnant mothers, and those with certain disabilities; and

**WHEREAS**, the federal government is over $30 Trillion dollars in debt and the U.S. Constitution does not give the federal government authority to manage healthcare; and

**WHEREAS**, article II, paragraph 2 of the NC Republican Party Platform states, “We support free market solutions for societal issues, which provide the most efficient use of our resources.” Therefore, a more cost-effective means to increasing healthcare access and enhancing affordability is to reduce regulation, increase market supply and encourage self-sufficiency.

**NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the Stanly County Republican Party Convention urges our state legislative delegation, to vote against any legislation enacting Medicaid expansion and instead promote legislation to repeal all Certificate of Need laws, expand scope of practice for nurses, physician assistants and community paramedics, reduce unnecessary insurance mandates and remove legal barriers towards full telehealth implementation including, but not limited to, out-of-state-licensure reciprocity.

Adopted this the 11th day of March, 2023

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Matthew Swain, Chairman