

**REPAIRERS  
OF THE BREACH**



**KAÏROS CENTER**  
FOR RELIGIONS, RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

March 4, 2024

Dear Members of the North Carolina General Assembly,

The **Poor People's Campaign: A National Call for Moral Revival** is a national campaign organizing poor people and low-wage workers, along with our moral allies, to challenge the interlocking injustices of systemic racism, systemic poverty, ecological devastation and the denial of healthcare, militarism, and the false moral narrative of religious nationalism.

Over 40 percent of the nation, or over 135 million people, are poor or one emergency away from economic ruin which includes 61% of Hispanic, 59% of Native/Indigenous, 55% of Black, 36% of Asian, and 32% of White people. We account for one-third of eligible voters nationwide, and over 40% of the electorate here in North Carolina. And yet, political campaigns have too often ignored our pressing concerns. In this election year, we aim to change that.

**This past Saturday, March 2, the North Carolina Poor People's Campaign joined over 30 states nationwide with simultaneous marches and assemblies at state capitols. Thousands of us marched on Raleigh from across the state to take back the mic from the extremists and make our voices heard.**

In case you missed it, please visit our website at [www.ppc-nc.org](http://www.ppc-nc.org) to view the program in full and hear from everyday North Carolinians who are directly impacted by the policies you pass in this Assembly.

When the richest country in the world allows **poverty to become the fourth-leading cause of death** while billionaire wealth and military spending are skyrocketing, we are in a moral crisis. In this country there are 52 million people who earn less than \$15/hour which includes 47% of Black workers, 46% Hispanic workers, 20% of Asian American and Native/Indigenous workers, 40% of working women and 50% of working women of color. We do not have a scarcity of resources or a scarcity of solutions to end this crisis. Instead, we have a scarcity of political will.

To end this moral crisis, we need a **“Third Reconstruction”** that builds on the transformational history of the First Reconstruction following the Civil War and the Second Reconstruction of the civil rights movement — two periods during which multi-racial coalitions of people impacted by social injustice achieved significant strides towards racial and economic justice.

In the attached Fact Sheet, you will find more information documenting the conditions poor people are facing in our state that point to the need for bold policies to address this crisis.

Indeed, policies that would improve the lives of poor and low-income people – including greater investments in health care, food assistance, housing, childcare and public education – enjoy majority support among Americans.<sup>1</sup>

During the first two years of the pandemic, we saw a glimmer of hope. Expanded public investment effectively reduced poverty, particularly among children – proving that *poverty is a policy choice*. But when elected officials allowed pandemic programs to expire, poverty levels immediately began to rise again in every state. We also witnessed that since 2020 there have been over 1,000 voter suppression bills introduced across all 50 states, including two massive voter suppression bills passed right here in North Carolina with the purpose of making it harder to vote. **You have the power to change public policies that can fundamentally end poverty and protect the rights of all.**

We know the power statehouses have in impacting policy which is why we demand:

- Abolishing poverty as the 4th leading cause of death in the US
- Living wages
- Full and expanded voting rights
- Ending voter suppression
- Guaranteed worker's rights & labor rights
- Ending mass incarceration
- Reentry support for people coming home from incarceration
- Healthcare for all
- Protections for LGBTQ North Carolinians
- Affordable, adequate housing
- Equal rights for all
- An end to gun violence, profit & proliferation
- Clean air & water
- Fully protected women's rights
- Environmental justice
- Equal access to fully-funded, quality, diverse public education, including funding for early childhood education
- Just immigration laws
- An end to systemic racism, white supremacy & extremist political agendas

---

<sup>1</sup><https://navigatorresearch.org/vast-majorities-of-americans-intensely-support-increasing-funding-for-programs/>

**REPAIRERS  
OF THE BREACH**



**KAIROS CENTER**  
FOR RELIGIONS, RIGHTS & SOCIAL JUSTICE

We call on you, and all elected officials, to use the power of your position to fully address these injustices and realize the nation we have yet to be, where we can all thrive and realize our true potential.

Today we are delivering this letter to all 170 members of the NC General Assembly. A few weeks ago, we asked the leadership of both sides of the aisle to meet with poor and low-wage North Carolinians, faith leaders and moral allies ahead of the short session to discuss our priorities. In those meetings we look forward to discussing the details of our agenda and hear how your leadership plans to address poverty as the fourth leading cause of death.

And finally, we are organizing to bring the people most impacted by your decisions back to Raleigh in April to welcome you back to the short session and demand an end to extremist policies and the policy violence against poor and low-wage North Carolinians.

As the North Carolina Poor People's Campaign, we will continue to organize poor and low-income people in our state, building our power, changing the narrative, and shifting what is politically possible.

Forward Together!

North Carolina Poor People's Campaign  
[northcarolina@poorpeoplescampaign.org](mailto:northcarolina@poorpeoplescampaign.org)  
[www.ppc-nc.org](http://www.ppc-nc.org)