Madison Cawthorn claimed coronavirus is overblown, saying it's no worse than the seasonal flu. Even during a global pandemic and economic crisis, he wants to deny Medicaid even to people who lost their job through no fault of their own and remove protections for seniors and people with pre-existing conditions.

Cawthorn Argued That The Coronavirus Pandemic Was "Overblown" And That The Virus Was "No Worse Than The Seasonal Flu." Cawthorn said, "I really believe that the deadliness and the terribleness of this virus has been way overblown. I think that we have such a problem in our country right now is that we have all these, these big news organizations that are so concerned about profit that they have stopped reporting then news and have just gone for full-on sensationalism. And because of that, they've made this pandemic, which you know is bad. Even if it just took one life, that's a tragedy, but at the end of the day, it's no worse than the seasonal flu. It's something that, I believe it's 97% to 99% recovery rate that's reported in the United States. And we're going to shut down our entire economy for that? You have got to be kidding me!" [Cawthorn for NC, Facebook Live, 31:50, 5/8/20] (VIDEO)

March 11, 2020: The World Health Organization Declared The Coronavirus A Pandemic. "The World Health Organization on Wednesday declared the rapidly spreading coronavirus outbreak a pandemic, acknowledging what has seemed clear for some time — the virus will likely spread to all countries on the globe." [STAT News, 3/11/20]

March 30, 2020: Cawthorn Opposed Medicaid Expansion In North Carolina. "Bennett didn't respond to a request for comment on this story, but Cawthorn doesn't see Medicaid expansion as the right move. 'I don't think it is,' Cawthorn said. 'I don't think the government does anything efficiently. What they should be doing is introducing more competition and deregulating a lot of the health care industry.'" [Smoky Mountain News, 3/30/20]

> **An Urban Institute Study Found That Nearly Three Times As Many Vulnerable Workers Would Be Eligible For Medicaid If Laid Off During The Coronavirus Pandemic In Expansion States Than In Non-Expansion States.** "As the coronavirus spreads across the country, stay-at-home orders proliferate, and many businesses shutter, the number of unemployed people is soaring. Higher unemployment will likely be widespread but will be felt particularly acutely in specific industries. Not only will family incomes change because of increased unemployment, but health insurance coverage will change as well. […] Almost 60 percent of vulnerable workers and their family members not already enrolled in public insurance coverage or employer coverage through a less vulnerable industry would be eligible for financial assistance through Medicaid/CHIP or the marketplaces. • The share of this population qualifying for assistance and the type of assistance for which they would be eligible differ dramatically depending on whether a person's state of residence has expanded Medicaid eligibility. Less than half of those living in nonexpansion states would be eligible for assistance, whereas 66 percent would be eligible in expansion states. Vulnerable workers and their family members are also much more likely to be eligible for Medicaid or CHIP in expansion states (37 percent versus 14 percent in nonexpansion states)." [Urban Institute, April 2020]

> **Week Ending March 28, 2020: North Carolina Had 170,881 New Unemployment Insurance Claims.** In the week ending March 28, 2020, North Carolina had 170,881 new unemployment insurance claims. [Department of Labor, News Release, 4/2/20]

Cawthorn Criticized "Entitlements" And Called To "Wean The American People Off These Entitlements." "I believe we have got to take care of our debt or our debt is going to handle us. I would like to cut down on our welfare type state and all of the entitlements that we give away to people in our country and in foreign aid by 2 or 3% a year, so that it can wean the American people off of these entitlements." [The Mountaineer, 5/31/20]

Cawthorn Supported Repealing The Affordable Care Act And Deregulating Health Care: "Let's Go Back To The Wild West." "While clarifying that he supports the president's call to repeal Obamacare now, Cawthorn believes there is an economic solution rooted in the free market. 'I feel like for so long we have been the party of, 'No,'' he said, noting it's a hard sell to voters to repeal the Affordable Care Act with no alternative. 'How are you getting people to vote for that when you're not telling what you want to do, put in its place? We have to have some

ideas,' he said. His solution is to repeal and deregulate. 'Let's go back to the Wild West. Let's let people compete for our dollars,' he said." [Washington Examiner, 6/29/20]

Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Re-Open The Medicare Prescription-Drug Doughnut Hole. "There's a Medicare prescription-drug coverage abyss that is playfully referred to as the 'doughnut hole,' though there is nothing sweet or amusing about it. But thanks to the Affordable Care Act, which had a rocky launch last week, Medicare beneficiaries will see that gap shrink again in 2013 and each year until 2020." [Wall Street Journal, 10/06/13]

The Centers For Medicaid And Medicare Services Found That Closing The Medicare Donut Hole Saved Seniors And People With Disabilities $8,926,354,113. According to Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services data, closing the Medicare donut hole saved seniors and people with disabilities $8,926,354,113. [Centers for Medicaid & Medicare Services, October 2013]

- **Centers For Medicaid And Medicare Services: Closing The Medicare Donut Hole Saved Seniors And People With Disabilities $8.9 Billion On Prescription Drugs.** "ObamaCare has saved seniors and people with disabilities nearly $9 billion in prescription drug costs, according to data touted Tuesday by the Obama administration. According to the Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Services, 7.3 million people who reached the 'doughnut hole' in their Medicare prescription drug coverage have saved $8.9 billion on their prescription drugs since the law was enacted in 2010. That's an average savings of $1,209 per person." [The Hill, 11/26/13]

PolitiFact: Repealing The Affordable Care Act Would Repeal Protections For Pre-Existing Conditions. "To understand Pureval's health care claim, we need to start with the basics of the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act of 2010, signed by President Barack Obama. It required most Americans to have health insurance, and health insurers had to cover any patient who applied and paid premiums. Some of those premiums were covered by taxpayer subsidies. The act, known in shorthand as both the ACA and Obamacare, prohibited charging premiums based on an applicant's health status or prior medical conditions. It allowed insurers to charge higher premiums for their oldest members, but no more than three times as high as premiums charged for the youngest members. Republicans including Chabot disliked the ACA from the start. It was economically unsustainable, they said, and while Obama claimed premiums would go down, they went up for a number of families, and some were forced to buy coverage they didn't want. Furthermore, congressional critics said, it was an assault on the ideals of free markets and individual choice. So they tried to repeal it. They voted multiple times, generally garnering enough votes for passage in the House, which Republicans retook in the late 2010 election, but failing in the Senate. Chabot voted with the majority. Therefore, Pureval says, Chabot voted to strip protections from people with pre-existing conditions. […] The Truth-O-Meter can only measure what a politician says and what he or she did. The connection between the ACA and pre-existing conditions was eminently clear throughout the repeal debate." [PolitiFact, 9/12/18]