

Public Policy Network of Western NC and North Georgia  
Candidate Profiles—NC House District 120

Health

**Aaron Martin – Democratic Challenger**

Mr. Martin responded to the PPN survey questions by telephone on October 11, 2018.

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**1. Access to Health Care: How do you propose to meet the health care needs of those people in your House District who are uninsured or under-insured? What would you do to your district has access to high quality, affordable, health care, regardless of their race, income, ethnicity, health status or geographic location?**

Mr. Martin believes that the key to meeting health care needs is to make sure that all citizens have health coverage. Medicaid expansion would have helped low income families receive the health coverage that is needed. He will fight for expansive health care coverage for all the people of NC.

**2. Pre-Existing Conditions: Are you committed to opposing any state legislation that would eliminate insurance for people with pre-existing conditions?**

Yes.

**3. Medicaid Expansion: The State of North Carolina has not expanded Medicaid. Do you agree with this action? Also, will you commit to protecting Medicaid, and to rejecting legislation that slashes funding for, or restructures this vital safety net?**

Mr. Martin believes that not expanding Medicaid was a disastrous decision. It is essential for rural health care that Medicaid remain a strong program in the state of NC.

**4. Challenges of Health Care Delivery in Rural Areas: How do you propose to address the unique needs of North Carolina's rural areas, including transportation; access to doctors, including specialists and ensuring the viability of hospitals in those areas?**

Mr. Martin supports adequate funding for public transportation to doctors' offices in rural counties such as exists in Clay County. He also believes that access to health care in rural counties is dependent on access to health insurance coverage; therefore, he will defend Medicaid, support Medicaid expansion and strengthening the ACA.

**5. Cost Containment: How do you propose to contain health care costs at the state level?**

Mr. Martin believes that focusing on fraud as a reason for high costs in health care is a cop out and thinks that vast profits in health care is one of the causes of rising health care costs. He would like to find ways to limit profits in health care and would like to see more Medicare type agreements which limit the allowable charges for health care. In addition, he is aware that universal coverage helps to keep costs down by sharing the costs across everyone. He supports Medicaid for All and would like to see progress made toward providing health insurance coverage for all Americans.

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**6. Opioid Abuse, Prevention & Treatment:** The CDC has reported that the deaths due to opioid overdoses (including opioids, heroin and fentanyl) have quadrupled in the U.S. between 1999-2015. Rural areas in western North Carolina are not immune from the scourges of the opioid epidemic. How do you propose to ensure access to life-saving prevention and treatment resources in the state of North Carolina?

Mr. Martin noted that the NC legislature had recently approved \$10 million for tackling the opioid crisis, but he pointed out that that was for the entire state. He would like to see drug courts created in NC such as those in GA. These courts are aimed at treatment and opportunity for drug offenders rather than simply labeling them as criminals.

Mr. Martin pointed out that western NC used to have much stronger mental health services and that services have been cut because of budget cuts. He would like to see mental health services be fully funded so that everyone could get the services that they need and get more people into treatment rather than losing them to opioids and other drugs.

**Kevin Corbin – Incumbent**

Mr. Corbin has not yet responded to the PPN survey questions. PPN volunteers are in the process of researching his voting record, campaign website and any published positions we can publish here for your information.