

Questions for the Record from Ms. Alma Adams for Dena King

“Victims of Violent Crime”

September 29, 2025

1. Rural Crime: Much of North Carolina is composed of rural communities unlike Charlotte, Raleigh, or Durham. Many rural communities are experiencing very high rates of violent crime. According to CDC data, the county with the highest number of gun-related homicides is in rural Mississippi. Although we know that communities of all types from big cities to rural areas experience crime, the Trump Administration canceled more than \$13 million in funding to the Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative, which assisted rural law enforcement agencies in expanding victim services and developing, implementing, and measuring strategies to reduce violent crime.
 - Does cutting funding to this program, which launched in 2021 in response to the violent crime challenges facing rural communities often with budget and staffing constraints in geographically expansive areas, make us safer or less safe?
2. Trump Mental Health Cuts: As a matter of community safety, the need for increased mental health services is urgent. Instead, Republicans have cut them. Trump clawed back \$1 billion of American Rescue Plan funding for state mental health programs and services, and billions more from the CDC. Republicans and Trump pulled \$250 million from mental health treatment and services from schools.
 - Are communities like Charlotte that experience reductions to their already insufficient mental health services more safe or less safe?
3. Medicaid and Mental Health: As I mentioned earlier, Medicaid cuts in Republicans’ One Big Ugly Bill and their unwillingness to negotiate on extending Affordable Care Act tax credits by the government funding deadline tomorrow will leave North Carolinians and people all over the country without health insurance. The cost of inpatient treatment at North Carolina’s public psychiatric hospital is over \$2,000 *per day* without insurance.
 - Does cutting Medicaid put emergency psychiatric services out of reach?
4. Law Enforcement Responding to Mental Health Crises: Law enforcement officers are often the first to respond to mental health crises, sometimes unknowingly before they arrive at the scene and despite limited training in handling such situations.
 - What are the challenges when law enforcement officers act as de facto first responders to mental health crises?
 - How do programs like Crisis Intervention Team (CIT) training aim to improve these encounters and divert individuals away from the justice system?