

The powerful example of the “Right to Education” has recently been impressed upon us again in North Carolina, as our state Supreme Court in July 2004 reaffirmed the decision of Judge Manning in the “Leandro case”. That 1994 lawsuit challenged the state’s inadequate support in poor school districts. Following inaction by the legislature, the governor appropriated money to begin implementation of Leandro by Executive Order. It is clearer now than ever, that the state is obligated to see that all students, no matter what their circumstances, have the chance to use public schools as a springboard to a better life. Without this obligation on the state (Art. I Sec. 15, NC Constitution), some business interests would still be arguing against the “affordability” of public education, as they did 100 years ago and as some do against the “Right to Health Care” today. Such arguments fail to take into account the net benefit to the people (and businesses) of the state of truly universal access to health care.

1. The International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) signed by the US in October 1977.
2. Paragraph 36 of General Comment 14, of the UN Committee on ESCR (2000)
3. Amendment IX of US Constitution: The enumeration in this Constitution of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others [other rights] retained by the people. US Constitution Article VI, cl. 2 International treaties along with our federal constitution are the “supreme law of the land” and enforceable throughout the nation.. See more detail at www.RightToHealthCare.org click on “Legal Documents”.



Health Care for All NC

A 501(c)(3), non-profit, membership organization
educating and advocating for the right to health care
for all North Carolinians