



# New Hampshire State Senate ***NEWS RELEASE***

**For Immediate Release:**  
May 22, 2013

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## **Senate GOP Leader: Complex Medicaid Expansion Calls for a Commission, Not a Quick Decision**

CONCORD, NH – Following weeks of Finance Committee budget hearings, including extensive time spent on the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) budget, Senate President Peter Bragdon, R-Milford, announced tonight he will offer an amendment removing Medicaid Expansion from the state budget. Bragdon will instead support the establishment of a bi-partisan commission comprised of legislators, health care industry representatives and other interested parties to take a closer look at the impact the issue would have on New Hampshire over the next year.

Bragdon said, "The U.S. Supreme Court, in its recent ruling regarding the ACA, made it clear that states have the flexibility to either expand their Medicaid programs or not under this new and extremely complex federal law. As a result, New Hampshire should take the time to understand this complex and costly offer. The federal government is making many promises when it comes to helping states fund Medicaid expansion, but we have been disappointed before with these types of promises and need to be cautious. Furthermore, neither the information we have received from HHS nor other studies, are able to point to clear evidence to prove expanding Medicaid will lead to lower costs or improved health care outcomes. Given all this, I believe establishing a bi-partisan commission is our best course of action at this time to help answer these outstanding questions. It's just the responsible thing to do for our citizens."

The Senate President's amendment 2013-1898s would appropriate \$200,000 to fund an eight-member, bi-partisan commission charged with studying a number of aspects of Medicaid expansion including: purchasing insurance through private companies, identifying steps to expand state flexibility on program design, and weighing the impact of increased eligibility on providers, as well as other issues. The amendment also requires an interim report be issued by December 1, 2013, and a final report by December 1, 2014.

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