



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Bradley, Lachance announce NH Health Protection Plan reform, reauthorization proposal

CONCORD, NH – Senator Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) and Representative Joseph Lachance (R-Manchester) today spoke at a press conference on legislation aimed at reforming and reauthorizing the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan alongside a number of supportive advocacy organizations representing citizens and businesses across the state. The current program is set to expire December 2016.

HB 1696, sponsored by Representative Lachance, will be heard in the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee on Thursday, Jan. 28 at 9:00 a.m. in Representatives Hall.

“We believe the New Hampshire Health Protection Program is working with more than 47,000 New Hampshire citizens signed on to this program. Evidence that the cost of uncompensated care has been reduced by nearly \$150 million, additional common sense work requirements for those who are able bodied and built in taxpayer protections makes reauthorizing this program for two more years the right thing to do for New Hampshire,” said Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro).

“The program originally created was a New Hampshire specific program to provide private health insurance to needy families without adding to the burden faced by our state’s taxpayers and as an alternative to the cookie-cutter Obama Care Expanded Medicaid plan. The reauthorization plan we’ve developed meets those same goals with taxpayer protections in place while ensuring our neediest citizens receive health care.”

“As part of our plan, we will fund reauthorization without new or increased taxes or general funds. The hospitals and insurers have agreed to voluntarily fund a portion of the state’s share of reauthorization costs, which dips from 100% to 95% federal contribution in 2017. We also built additional taxpayer protections into the program by ending the program should federal funding or any other funding sources fall short of program costs. As part of our goal to help Granite Staters get back to work, this plan requires additional common sense work requirements already required for state and federal assistance programs and continues modest co-pays. We believe this makes sense for needy families and individuals and for taxpayers. I urge my colleagues in the House to consider and support this plan,” said Bradley.

“The proposed modifications to the New Hampshire Health Protection program are consistent with our New Hampshire values and principles. Personal responsibility measures are key for continuing success of this program and we seek a work requirement for able bodied adults, a co-payment for inappropriate use of the emergency room and there are modifications ensuring that this program is being used by those for whom it is intended,” said Representative Joseph Lachance.

“I am pleased to be a part of an effort to continue the NH HPP without impacting New Hampshire taxpayers or general funds. That is the key component to my support for the legislation and the program will not continue unless it is funded by outside sources. Most importantly, I’m proud to say that this bill represents how, in New Hampshire, we can continue to do things our own way,” said Lachance.

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