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Contact Name: Sara Persechino

Phone: (603) 271-3479

Email: Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us

New Hampshire Senate Applauds Adoption of SB 290, Work Requirement Waiver Announcement

CONCORD—Today, SB 290 was signed into law, which clarifies and improves New Hampshire’s Granite Advantage Health Care Program work and community engagement requirement to ensure no Granite Stater arbitrarily loses health care coverage. Upon passage, NH Department of Health and Human Services Commissioner Jeff Meyers used his authority to extend the implementation period 120 days and waive the suspension of coverage for individuals, just days before [letters](#) would be sent notifying nearly 17,000 Medicaid beneficiaries of lost coverage and in the midst of a [glitch](#) in the work requirement online submission form.

“Senate Democrats knew from the beginning that the work requirement notification process and implementation would be onerous and difficult. We have said all along that any work requirement in New Hampshire cannot result in the arbitrary loss of health care coverage for Granite Staters, like it did in Arkansas—that’s why we introduced and championed SB 290, to improve and clarify this law,” said **Senator Cindy Rosenwald (D-Nashua)**. “Unfortunately, Republicans fought us at every step on this effort until the last possible minute, apparently content to kick Granite Staters off their health insurance.”

Senate Majority Leader Dan Feltes (D-Concord) added, “In three roll call votes, not a single Republican member of the Senate voted in favor of SB 290 before the Committee of Conference, when it became painstakingly clear that without this fix, thousands of people would have their health care suspended without cause on July 10th, most of whom are working, caregivers, full-time students, or experience a disability. It should not have taken Republicans and Governor Sununu this long to try to do the right thing. The Sununu administration has failed to adequately implement this work requirement over the last year, another 120 days will not make a difference. This is simply a political maneuver to save face in light of ongoing litigation.”

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Background:

- A [new study](#) in the New England Journal of Medicine shows that a similar work requirement in Arkansas failed to boost unemployment but did boost the rate of uninsured people.
- A Republican PAC launched [paid campaign ads](#) this year in support of the flawed work requirement and against Senate Democrats’ efforts to protect Granite Staters’ health coverage.