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**news release**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** July 16, 2013

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**Study Commission Learns New Hampshire’s**

**Medicaid Program Has A Solid Track Record**

CONCORD – Members of the Medicaid Expansion Study Commission heard today about New Hampshire’s Medicaid program and its decades-long history ensuring low-income children, elders and people with disabilities have access to vital health care services.

New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute Executive Director Jeff McLynch issued the following statement today after the meeting.

“Far from being new and untested, Medicaid has a solid track record. Most of those who benefit in New Hampshire – 59 percent – are children. Only very select groups of low-income adults are currently eligible for Medicaid. As commission members learn more, we trust they will understand the importance of accepting federal funds to get more families covered in New Hampshire. Not only will expanded coverage reduce the costs associated with people who can’t afford insurance, it will give families the security they need to thrive and help this state grow,” he said.

The nine-member commission, which includes House, Senate and public members, is tasked with studying the potential costs and benefits of accepting federal funds to extend Medicaid eligibility to more low-income adults. The federal government would pay 100 percent of the benefit costs from 2014 through 2016 and gradually scale back to 90 percent in 2020.

The commission is due to report its findings by Oct. 15.

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