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 **news release**

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 **New Hampshire Legislature Should Seize the Opportunity**

**to Extend Health Care Coverage to Thousands of Granite Staters**

CONCORD – The New Hampshire legislature will meet in the final day of its special session tomorrow in order to consider competing plans to provide access to health insurance to approximately 49,000 low-income adults beginning in 2014.

“New Hampshire’s policymakers must seize this opportunity now,” said Deb Fournier, a policy analyst with the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute. “We hope that Governor Hassan and members of the legislature will continue their efforts until the final gavel and exhaust every possibility in order to reach a practical and timely compromise. New Hampshire’s working families simply cannot afford to wait.”

The bills that will be before the House of Representatives and Senate tomorrow would enable New Hampshire to use the federal funds available under the Affordable Care Act (ACA) to extend health insurance coverage to adults aged 19 through 64 with household incomes under 138 percent of the federal poverty line. Both bills would use a combination of New Hampshire’s existing Medicaid program, employer-sponsored health insurance, and the new health insurance Marketplace to achieve those goals. At issue are the extent to which New Hampshire should rely on each of those approaches and the timeframe over which each would be used.

Fournier added, “Delaying action until next year means the loss of millions of dollars flowing into New Hampshire’s economy and many more months of hardship and insecurity for hard-working Granite Staters.”

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