



NH Local Welfare Administrator's Association

c/o Cornerstone Association Management
53 Regional Drive, Suite 1
Concord, NH 03301

Towards self-sufficiency...

August 9, 2013

Jim Varnum, Chair
Commission to Study Expansion of Medicaid Eligibility
New Hampshire General Court
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Testimony of Local Welfare Administrators Association
In Support of Medicaid Expansion

Dear Commissioner Varnum:

I am writing this letter to express the support of the Local Welfare Administrators Association for the expansion of Medicaid in NH.

Per RSA 165:1, every city and town in NH is mandated to provide assistance with basic needs for those in the community unable to provide for themselves. Basic needs can include prescriptions, medical, dental or eye services when no other resources exist. The residents that we assist would meet the income eligibility guidelines that are proposed for expanded Medicaid. This would benefit the individual as well as the local property taxpayer who is responsible for funding the local welfare budget. Polling just 10 cities and towns reveal that more than \$172,000 was expended on prescriptions in the past fiscal year, funded by local taxpayers.

There are also indirect costs to the cities and towns welfare budgets. A person without health coverage who does not have access to medical services such as preventative care, dental care, or vision care may develop medical issues. People with untreated medical issues may miss time from employment, causing a reduction in income or a possible loss of employment. This same person without Medicaid will need assistance from the municipality for rent, food, utilities and other expenses due to reduced income. We may also need to assist people who are unable to work while awaiting non-emergent medical procedures that are delayed due to the lack of insurance coverage. The need for assistance could last until they are able to return to gainful employment.

We appreciate the complex work of the committee and know that you are aware of the many benefits that the expansion of Medicaid in NH would provide. We strongly support the expansion that would bring relief to the local taxpayers and improve the health and welfare of our low income neighbors, a direct benefit to these individuals and families and to the overall health of the NH economy. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Angela Martin-Giroux, Chair
NHLWAA Legislative Affairs