

The Governor's Commission on Medicaid Care Management

May 15, 2015

Governor Maggie Hassan
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan,

In May of 2013, the Commission on Medicaid Care Management issued a recommendation that New Hampshire implement Medicaid Expansion.

We are providing a further recommendation that the program, given its success, be extended. The benefit to nearly 40,000 people, supported by enhanced federal funding, has positively impacted New Hampshire families, health care providers, our business community, and the economy at large. Furthermore, the ongoing development of Medicaid Care Management relies on the revenue value of expansion as well as its value in holding costs to levels incorporated into the actuarial foundations of the contracts for NH Medicaid Care Management.

The Commission's charge is to advise you regarding the program's implementation to ensure that it achieves the "goals of improving access to eligible populations, quality and appropriateness of care and cost effectiveness of the Medicaid program". We believe that implementation of the NH Health Protection Program (NHHPP) has met these goals, and that New Hampshire families and communities can only benefit from its continuation.

Early evidence confirms that NHHPP coverage is providing enrollees with access to primary and preventive care, cost-effective management of chronic illness, and what can be life-saving mental health and substance use disorder services.

The NHHPP is decreasing uncompensated care for health care providers. A newly-updated NH Hospital Association study indicates that the program is causing notable reductions in uninsured inpatient, outpatient, and emergency room visits, and so in uncompensated care costs.

Providing coverage for mental health and substance use disorder services and treatment in the community, the Health Protection Program takes an important step toward helping to address our state's mental health crisis and opioid addiction epidemic.

The availability of mental health and substance use disorder services in the community also holds evidence-based promise for reducing corrections costs and recidivism at state and county levels.

Business leaders already are praising the program for keeping health care cost-shifting in check, and for contributing to a healthy and productive workforce. If extended, the NHHPP will continue bringing hundreds of millions of federal dollars into New Hampshire's economy.

Given the early and significant progress of expansion, we offer the following recommendation:

The Governor's Commission on Medicaid Care Management hereby recommends that Medicaid expansion be continued in New Hampshire due to its positive impact on the health of our citizens, our health care system and our economy.

The Commission offers our support for any efforts to ensure continuation of the program and believes it is in the best interest of the state. We congratulate you and the bipartisan coalition that brought the Health Protection Program to fruition and hope that the support can be secured for its continuation.

Please feel free to contact me for further information. Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Mary Vallier-Kaplan
Chair, Governor's Commission on Medicaid Care Management
mvallierkaplan@gmail.com 603-731-3542

Cc: NH Senate

Kathleen Sgambati