

Quote of the Week

“Liberals seem to assume that, if you don't believe in their particular political solutions, then you don't really care about the people that they claim to want to help.”

— Thomas Sowell

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Week In Review

The House was not in session this week, but a number a Committees of Conference began to meet. These meetings will continue until June 27th, which is the last day for the House to act on any Committee of Conference reports.

MEDICAID EXPANSION

On issues of both cost and effectiveness, it is unclear that the one size fits all Medicaid Expansion proposed by Governor Hassan is the right path for New Hampshire taxpayers, patients or providers.

COST

Medicaid is the state's largest and most expensive program, costing \$1.4 billion a year and accounting for 27 percent of general fund spending. Before we rush in to a fundamental overhaul and expansion of this entitlement, practicality dictates that we study it carefully and consider our options.

State Costs: Over the next seven years, expanded Medicaid could have a net cost to New Hampshire taxpayers of up to \$200 million. Once the federal match drops to 90 percent after three years, state costs will be upwards of \$50 million annually, provided the federal government keeps its word.

- The Federal Government has failed the state on its commitment to IDEA Special Education Funding (among other programs), costing taxpayers millions. In recent years, President Obama made over \$700 billion in cuts to Medicare to fund the ACA, and more recently he proposed \$100 billion in Medicaid cuts as a part of debt ceiling negotiations. While the federal government may have kept its promises on these entitlements in the past, on going budget battles in Washington leave reason to be concerned that Medicare and Medicaid funding may soon go the way of the IDEA, leaving the state taxpayers to pick up the hefty tab.

Federal Costs: Proponents argue not expanding Medicaid will result in \$2.5 billion in New Hampshire taxpayer money going to other states; this is simply untrue as it implies other states will expand programs further if one state does not. In fact, 26 other states have taken a similar wait-and-see approach as advocated by the Senate. Further, with a \$3.8 trillion federal budget and a nearly \$17 trillion federal debt, taxpayers across the country are already saddled with enormous costs to fund the federal government. This expansion will only add to that burden.

Cost per New Enrollee: Using the federal funding estimates touted by expansion proponents, simple math suggests the federal and the state government will be spending nearly \$15,000 per new enrollee under expansion. At this cost, Medicaid enrollees would be on health insurance plans classified as “Cadillac” by the Affordable Care Act, plans now subject to increased taxes to fund the law.

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ICYMI (In Case You Missed It)

House W&M Revenue Estimates

On Tuesday, the House Ways and Means Committee met for a full committee work session on revenue estimates.

In the end, the House Ways and Means Democrats supported revenue estimates roughly \$50 million higher than the Senate Republicans, while the Ways and Means Republicans unanimously voted against the higher estimates, instead agreeing to estimates similar to the Senate.

Budget CofC Members Announced

This week, budget conferees were named to the Committee of Conference on HB 1 and HB2, which are the two budget bills. Regular members of both committees include the following:

<u>House:</u>	<u>Senate:</u>
Rep. Wallner (D)	Sen. Morse (R)
Rep. Rosenwald (D)	Sen. Odell (R)
Rep. Eaton (D)	Sen. Forrester (R)
Rep. Almy (D)	Sen. D'Allesandro (D)
Rep. Kurk (R)	

The CofC will be meeting Monday at 9am and Tuesday and Wednesday at 10am to work on a budget agreement.

Important Dates

- **Republican Caucus-** Wednesday, June 26th, at 9:00am (*Only Open to House Republicans*)
- **House Session-** Wednesday, June 26th, at 10:00am
- ★ **Committee to Elect House Republicans Fundraiser-** Friday, June 21st at 6:00pm in the Grappone Center in Concord. Tribute to Rep. Charlie Bass and the Bass Family.

MEDICAID EXPANSION CONTINUED

EFFECTIVENESS

The bipartisan commission proposed by the Senate Finance Committee will have the time and resources necessary to study what expansion will mean for the state, and will seek to answer two fundamental questions: Should New Hampshire expand Medicaid? And, if so, how?

Expansion Options: A recent paper by the New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies proposes several expansion models to cover various segments of New Hampshire’s uninsured population – each of which would have different costs and implications. To date, none of these additional options have been explored; despite the study showing that the one size fits all proposal offered by the Governor is not the most cost effective for the state.

Crowd Out: The New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies notes that of the 58,000 people proponents argue would be covered under expansion, 34,000 already have private insurance coverage. In other words, to insure 24,000 new people expansion will shift 34,000 others from private insurance on to a public plan at taxpayer expense.

Availability: Given the state’s already low Medicaid reimbursement rates, some providers have stopped accepting new Medicaid patients. Providers have been unable to guarantee they would have the ability to take on the thousands of new patients expected to seek care under the expanded program, causing problems not only for new enrollees but existing patients covered by both Medicaid and other insurance.

In its ruling on the Affordable Care Act, the Supreme Court specifically gave states the authority to not expand their Medicaid programs under the federal law. A majority of states have put the brakes on expansion for precisely some of the reasons outlined above.



Meet a New Member

Rep. Phil Straight



Phil moved to New Hampshire from Iowa in 1999 after retiring. He had worked many years as a civil engineer in agriculture for the state of Iowa, designing and building wildlife habitats and reclaiming coal mine lands. Phil likens NH to Iowa because the people are laid back, down to earth and politically similar, but he's enjoying the added bonus of New Hampshire's trees and mountains.

Before running for State Rep, Phil became active in local community service, as Chair of the Merrimack Zoning Board, and as a member of the Conservation Commission, Parks & Recreation Committee, and several other sub committees. He is proud of the fact that he led the development of a new park, completely off of the tax rolls.

Phil lives in Merrimack with his wife, where he enjoys the outdoors, fishing, and monitoring the stock market. He has one daughter in Iowa and two in New England. Please stop by and say hello at seat 280 or in the House Transportation Committee, where he serves.

Jeff is enjoying his work in the House Education Committee and finds it a great match for him, having served on the local School Board and being married to a Special Education teacher. He is concerned about Common Core and wants to monitor it closely.

Jeff has lived in Epping for 30 years, and has served as a Selectman and on their Planning Board. He is retired now, but was a carpenter and small business owner for many years.

In his spare time, Jeff volunteers his time with Project Mercy and has been to Ethiopia at least seven times with his church group to build a school, orphanage and medical center. He has 4 children and 5 grandchildren. Please stop by and say hello at seat 329.

Rep. Jeff Harris



Rep. Ted Wright



Ted has lived in the Lakes Region his entire life, and now represents the floatorial district that includes Tuftonboro, Moultonborough, Brookfield, Effingham, Ossipee, Sandwich and Wakefield.

You might know Ted for his involvement in the medical marijuana debate, as this has been a major concern for him since his wife began battling cancer 20 years ago. Ted owns and operates his own surveying company, and also got involved at the state level for economic concerns, saying "We can solve a lot of problems if we make it easier for small businesses to hire here."

Ted has been involved in Tuftonboro politics for 17 years, serving as Chairman of the Budget Committee and on the Planning Board. He also worked as Code Enforcement Officer for 3 years. Early in his career, he served in the US Coast Guard and then the US Army National Guard.

Ted and his wife Cindy are historical reenactors recreating battles in the 18th century, so people can better understand the past. Please say hello to Ted in House Resources, Recreation and Development Committee or at seat 461.

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Committees of Conference

The following bills will be heading to a [Committee of Conference](#) (CofC). This is not a complete list though, as additional bills will be sent to a CofC in the coming days.

HB 142, relative to teacher evaluation systems.

HB 183, relative to processing absentee ballots. Meeting: 6/17/2013 10:30AM

HB 242, relative to child passenger restraint requirements. Meeting: 6/10/2013 10:00AM

HB 252, consolidating the property appraisal division and the municipal services division of the department of revenue administration. Meeting: 6/14/2013 1:00PM

HB 253, relative to limitations on sales by nano breweries for consumption on the premises.

HB 265, relative to procedures by absentee voters. Meeting: 6/18/2013 1:00PM

HB 314, raising limits on single wagers in games of chance and relative to gross revenues received by charitable organizations participating in games of chance. Meeting: 6/18/2013 1:00PM

HB 353, relative to the regulation of private investigators and security guards.

HB 385, relative to licensure of, and the performance of electrical work by, elevator and accessibility lift mechanics. Meeting: 6/14/2013 1:30PM

HB 442, prohibiting residency restrictions for registered sex offenders and offenders against children. Meeting: 6/19/2013 10:00AM

HB 472, relative to residential units in rooming houses. Meeting: 6/18/2013 1:00PM

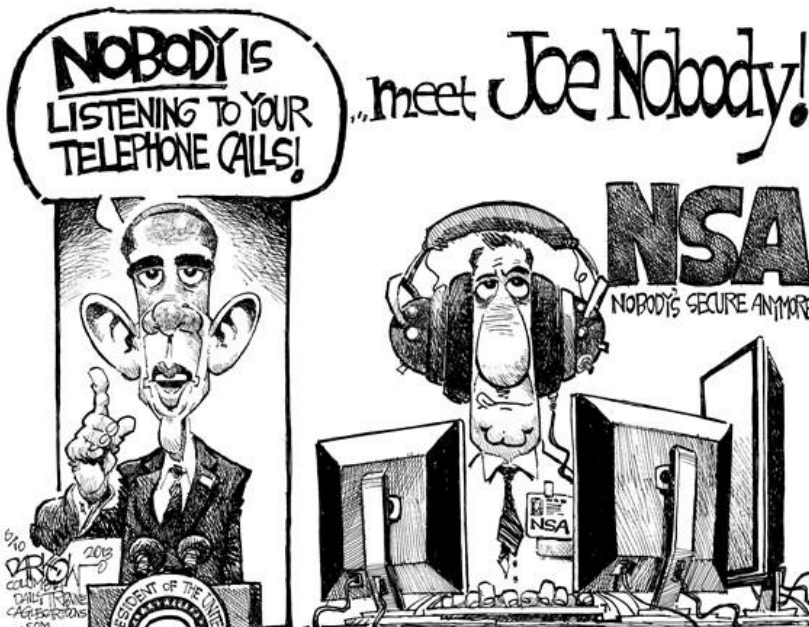
HB 546, relative to medical examinations under workers' compensation. Meeting: 6/18/2013 9:30AM

HB 573-FN, relative to the use of cannabis for therapeutic purposes. Meeting: 6/18/2013 9:00AM

HB 595-FN, relative to photo identification of voters. Meeting: 6/17/2013 9:30AM

HB 599-FN, relative to establishing a single liquor commissioner. Meeting: 6/17/2013 12:30PM

HB 635, establishing a committee to study state rest areas and relative to the solicitation of requests for proposals for the naming rights to rest areas.



Notes From the Republican Leader

If any members have any questions regarding legislation that has been sent to a Committee of Conference, please contact our office and let us know.

We will be working to make sure that our members have everything they need to be fully prepared for all Committees of Conference and the votes to pass or kill the committee reports thereafter.

Have a great weekend!

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Gene