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## Must Read Opinion Pieces

There have been several must read opinion pieces dealing with healthcare policy that have been published over the past week. Below you'll find a link to the columns and key quotes from each. They all deal with how Obamacare is negatively affecting New Hampshire, our healthcare system, and our business community.

### [Throwing more onto Medicaid would be a mistake for NH](#) – By Maria Ryan, CEO of Cottage Hospital in Woodsville

*“Given the botched rollout of the Affordable Care Act, can we really have confidence in expanding an already existing government program? Proponents of Medicaid expansion want to sign up immediately based on the false promise of free federal dollars. Rather than running towards acceptance, New Hampshire should continue to cautiously review ways of providing greater access to health care in a way that makes the most sense.”*

### [How Obamacare is hurting my small NH business](#) – By Andrea Carnevale, VP of Bedford Village Inn

*“On its face, Obamacare seems like a positive regulation; it would appear to extend health care to a larger section of the workforce, which is a worthy goal. But like many of the Affordable Care Act's other provisions, good intentions do not translate to workable policy for businesses that have to implement it.”*

### [The Medicaid trick: It's not about insurance](#) – Union Leader Editorial (10/14/2013)

*“New Hampshire's Medicaid Expansion Commission is scheduled to make its final recommendations to legislators tomorrow. Gov. Maggie Hassan is expected to call the Legislature into a special session to act on the recommendation, which will be to expand eligibility. That would be a mistake for reasons that should be obvious. If the point of expanding Medicaid eligibility from 63 percent of the federal poverty level to 138 percent is to provide health insurance to more Granite Staters, there are far better ways to do that. But is that the point?”*

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## Important Upcoming Dates & Events

- Tuesday, October 22, 2013 Caucus on Medicaid Expansion at 2pm LOB 305-307 (*Open to Republican Members Only*)
- Thursday, November 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Special Session on Rules and legislation introduction
- Tuesday, November 12, 2013 Public Hearing on Medicaid Expansion by Joint House and Senate Finance Committees
- Friday, November 15, 2013 Last day to sign off LSRs (4:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, November 21, 2013 Session to vote on legislation
- Friday, November 22, 2013 Last day to report retained Bills
- Wednesday, January 8, 2014 Last day to introduce House Legislation

## Must Read Opinion Pieces (continued from page 2)

### [How the Affordable Care Act's flaws hurt New Hampshire](#) – By Al Felgar, CEO of Frisbe Memorial Hospital in Rochester

*“As many people line up to join the health insurance system, the door is slamming shut for many providers of health care in New Hampshire and around the country. This is already having a dramatic impact on the relationship between doctors and patients here in this state.”*

*“It is critical to remember one reality about this reform: Obamacare means that roughly 10 million people will now be enrolled in health care programs around the country. But there is no plan to expand the number of doctors or health care providers to handle the sudden surge of new patients in the system.”*

### [Medicaid expansion not worth the risk](#) – by Rep. Patrick Abrami (R-Stratham)

*“...the ACA is, indeed, a train wreck, to quote Sen. Max Baucus. Yes, we have a very inefficient health care system (I have been saying this for years) caused primarily by incentives that work counter to quality care at an appropriate cost. Unless the Medicaid Expansion Commission can prove with near 100 percent certainty that New Hampshire will not be placed in financial jeopardy in the future, I will be a “no” vote. In my humble opinion, this bureaucratic nightmare, with its nearly 20,000 pages of regulations and the IRS as traffic cop, is not the answer we needed.”*

#### HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER COMMENTS ON \$76M FY13 SURPLUS

CONCORD – New Hampshire House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) offered the following comments in reaction to the announcement of a \$76million surplus from fiscal year 2013, part of the budget passed by the Republican legislative majority in 2011.

#### House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

“Despite the criticism and malignment, the budget passed by the Republican legislative majority last term has paid dividends. Sound fiscal management through spending and tax reforms helped keep our state on solid footing through tough economic times. Thankfully, the budget we passed that took effect this year mirrors many of the important provisions of the previous budget, including no new taxes or fees, something Republicans fought for throughout the budget process.”

“Even with the good news, we mustn’t rush into a spending spree. We will have a thorough discussion on how to best apply these surplus funds that will best serve the needs of our state, it’s people and our fiscal health.”

#### HOUSE REPUBLICAN LEADER STATEMENT ON MEDICAID EXPANSION COMMISSION REPORT

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) released the following statement following the acceptance of the report and recommendations of the Medicaid Expansion Commission.

#### House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

“The report signed today contains both majority and minority recommendations. We believe the concerns addressed by the minority of the commission have merit and we will ensure they remain part of the discussion as the process moves forward to the full legislature. Republicans will continue to offer solutions that minimize or eliminate taxpayers' exposure to unfunded liabilities and maximize use of private insurance options.”

“We all want to find ways to increase access to affordable healthcare for our low income citizens. We don’t want to face the possibility of an income or sales tax if and when Medicaid costs become unmanageable.”

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LINKS:

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## House Republican Leaders Reacts to the NH Ranking 48<sup>th</sup> in Business Tax Study

CONCORD – House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) and House Policy Leader Laurie Sanborn (R-Bedford) released the following statement in reaction to the recently published [Business Tax Climate Index](#) from the non-partisan Tax Foundation. The index placed New Hampshire 8th nationally for overall tax climate, but 48<sup>th</sup> in the nation for corporate taxes.

### House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

“This should serve as another red flag to lawmakers that we need to take a serious look at our approach to business taxes in New Hampshire. This year, when the Governor and House Democrats proposed to suspend several business tax reforms passed by the previous legislature, Republicans fought back. Those reforms will remain law thanks to Republican legislative leaders in the House and Senate.”

“As we’ve learned, even with the meaningful reform we saw during the previous term, we need to do more. We need to compete regionally and nationally in order for businesses to locate, grow and create jobs here in New Hampshire. Our long term economic viability depends on it. House Republicans remain committed to supporting reasonable and meaningful business tax reforms.”

### House Republican Policy Leader Laurie Sanborn (R-Bedford)

“As a business owner and legislator, it’s disappointing to see our state continue to wallow at the bottom of the list and have some of the highest business taxes in the nation. While many factors influence a company to incorporate or expand in New Hampshire, taxes do matter and we need to be more competitive in this area if we are to continue to grow the economy, create jobs and keep youth in our state.”

## Notes from the Republican Leader

Friends,

As many of you may have heard there have been 2 events in the last few weeks significantly affecting members of the Republican Caucus. There have been funds set up for both members that we wanted to make you aware of.

First, after the death of their son in Iraq in 2007, two days ago Rep. Skip Rollins’ family suffered a second tragedy from a house fire. The fire has left their home unlivable, and with the cold weather and holidays coming, there has been a fund set up to help the family. To help the Rollins family rebuild, here is the link:

<http://www.gofundme.com/4ttorc>

Second, last week Rep. George Lambert suffered a heart attack that caused him to be in the hospital for several days and will be out of work while he is recovering. A fund has been set up to aide while he is out of work. If you would like to help out the Lambert family, here is the link: <http://www.gofundme.com/4qqjq4>

As always, please give us a call if you have any questions or concerns.

## ★ Reminder ★

The final report of the Medicaid Expansion Commission contains both a majority and minority opinion. The set of proposals that have been referenced are the recommendation of the pro-expansion majority of the commission. There were three members of the commission that disagreed with and voted against these proposals. They created a minority report that can be found starting on [page 106](#) of the final report.

*Gene G. Chandler*