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House Republicans United Against Obamacare's Medicaid Expansion

Although the introduction of SSHB1, one of the largest spending bills in the last decade passed, Republicans stood united in their opposition.

100% of Republican members present on Thursday opposed introduction of SSHB1. 100% of Democrats voted to introduce the bill, which is nothing more than a massive government entitlement expansion.

Republicans simply could not vote for the introduction of a bill before knowing what they were even voting for. The Democrats' opinion is to rush into a serious and complex expansion of a government entitlement program. There is no benefit to introduce a piece of legislation before we even knew exactly what it does. This is not Washington DC.

House Republican Leaders Comment on Medicaid Expansion Legislation

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) and Medicaid Expansion Commission member Rep. Neal Kurk (R-Weare) offered the following statements relative to the unveiling of a House bill dealing with Medicaid Expansion that will be debated during the Special Session.

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett)

"The Governor and House Democrats have proposed an expansion of a government entitlement program that will likely push New Hampshire towards a broad based sales or income tax. We should be looking to reform Medicaid, not grow its rolls by tens of thousands. We should strive to find more innovative and cost effective ways to provide access to healthcare in New Hampshire. Republicans will continue to suggest alternatives that protect taxpayers and increase personal responsibility measures."

(Continued on page 2...)

Important Upcoming Dates & Events

- Friday, November 15, 2013 Last day to sign off LSRs (4:00 p.m.)
- Thursday, November 21, 2013 Last day to act on Special Session legislation
- Friday, November 22, 2013 Last day to report retained Bills
- Wednesday, January 8, 2014 Last day to introduce House Legislation

House Republican Leaders Comment on Medicaid Expansion Legislation

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"The bill also has provisions outside of the Medicaid Expansion Commission's recommendation and gives us even more reason to question the intention of the bill. The bill eliminates the Joint Health Care Reform Oversight Committee. This committee is essential to maximizing transparency during the Obamacare implementation period."

Rep. Neal Kurk (R-Weare)

"The Medicaid Expansion Commission majority proposal is compassionate, but it's unaffordable to New Hampshire taxpayers. It would expand the Medicaid program to provide free health insurance for the working poor -- that's compassionate -- but it would make New Hampshire taxpayers responsible for an unlimited increase in the state's share of the costs -- that's unaffordable. The minority of the Commission recommended a better way, one that would provide health insurance but limit costs to the state's taxpayers. I hope the full House will consider that more responsible approach."

ICYMI: HOUSE COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS KILLING GMO LABELING BILL

On Thursday, the House Environment and Agriculture committee recommended killing HB 660 on a divided 12-8 vote, which would require the labeling of any product containing genetically modified ingredients.

Studies of GMOs have shown that there is no risk to the public's health. By labeling these foods, it could lead to false assumptions and cause unnecessary fear. Ultimately, these required labels would hurt New Hampshire's small business community and cause significant spikes in the costs of food for consumers.

HB660 will be voted on by the full House in January along with other retained bills.

NHGOP STATEMENT ON RETIREMENT OF COUNCILOR RAY BURTON

CONCORD- New Hampshire Republican State Committee Chairman Jennifer Horn released the following statement today on Executive Councilor Ray Burton's decision to not seek reelection due to health concerns:

"Ray Burton is a legend in New Hampshire politics, and it's hard to even consider the Executive Council without his steady and reassuring presence. For over three decades, Ray has been a tireless champion for the North Country, a respected bipartisan leader and one of the most dedicated elected officials in New Hampshire.

"There will never be another public servant like Councilor Ray Burton. He is simply irreplaceable and his difficult decision is an enormous loss for our state. New Hampshire is thankful for his outstanding service and our thoughts and prayers are with him during these trying times."

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Republican Leaders Surprised at State Exchange Flip Flop in Medicaid Expansion Bill

CONCORD - House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett) and Assistant House Republican Leader and Ranking Republican on the House Commerce Committee, John Hunt (R-Rindge) released statements relative to provisions in [Special Session House Bill 1](#) (Section 8) that repeal the prohibition of and establishes a New Hampshire Health Benefit Marketplace.

Background:

On October 22, the House Commerce Committee voted unanimously (20-0) to recommend killing [HB544](#), a bill that repealed the prohibition on a state based marketplace and advocated state agencies, “plan for, participate in, contract with any private entity regarding, and interact with the federal government with respect to, the creation of a health benefit exchange for New Hampshire.”

After the vote, Committee Chair Ed Butler (D-Hart’s Location) [said of a state based exchange](#), “This just isn’t the right time to pursue it.”

Just one day prior to the Commerce Committee vote to kill the bill repealing the prohibition, Governor [Hassan’s spokesperson called for](#) the repeal of the prohibition.

In 2012, [HB1297](#), establishing the prohibition of a state health care exchange, was passed both the House and Senate via voice votes and was signed by Governor John Lynch.

Assistant Republican Leader John Hunt (R-Rindge):

“In just over 2 weeks, we’ve seen Democrats in Concord unable to make up their minds on this issue in pretty dramatic fashion. First House Democrats split with Governor Hassan and roundly reject a bill that would have allowed for a state insurance marketplace, saying it wasn’t necessary. Just 15 days later, Democrats unveil a flagship piece of legislation that, in part, does just that.”

“On the House floor on Thursday, I voiced my concern that this special session bill is not only being rushed through the legislative process, but also that the process has been less than transparent. Any piece of legislation having to do with insurance markets traditionally would go to the House Commerce committee prior to going to House Finance. Had this bill been introduced during the regular session, it would receive a full and proper vetting by all the proper committees, including the Commerce committee, that already rejected this concept. I hope my colleagues on Finance follow our bi-partisan example and delete this provision from the bill.”

House Republican Leader Gene Chandler (R-Bartlett):

“This is another example of why Republicans were justified in unanimously rejecting the introduction of the Special Session bill on Thursday, prior to being able to read the bill. We were lead to believe the bill would mirror the Medicaid Expansion Commission’s recommendation. Now that we’ve read the bill, we keep identifying things in it that were never part of the commission’s report. Not only was this not part of the report, the concept was unanimously rejected by a House committee just over 2 weeks ago. This entire process looks like something we’d see out of the dysfunction of Washington, D.C.”