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**Opinion**  
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### **The Art of Compromise**



One thing in New Hampshire is certain despite political philosophy differences, when it comes to assisting our most vulnerable, high- and at-risk populations, compromise for a solution prevails. New Hampshire is about to embark on a historic vote. Through a bicameral and bipartisan effort, legislators have designed a framework for insurance coverage for people making \$15,000 a year or less: The New Hampshire Health Protection Program (SB 413). The architecture of this plan has been designed through thoughtful bipartisan negotiations, cooperation, and concessions to come to an agreement. This compromise bill is fully supported by the Governor, leadership from the Republican and Democratic Senate, and a majority in the House.

New Hampshire has successfully avoided the typical bipartisan discord we see across the country. Beyond this remarkable consensus, this legislation is unanimously supported by the health care provider community and the business community including the Business and Industry Association, New Hampshire's statewide Chamber of Commerce.

SB 413 will provide health insurance coverage and income security through a cost effective option to cover approximately 50,000 residents. The insurance coverage for this population has tremendous value including increasing access to preventive, primary, mental and behavioral health care; providing the full continuum of specialty and hospital care; increasing the quality of life and reducing the burden of illness; helping to bend the health cost curve; bridging patients into our managed care system; reducing the state's uncompensated care burden; and reducing the drain on businesses and individuals who are currently insured.

SB 413 utilizes existing federal funds to expand private health insurance coverage for low-income residents. These federal resources will provide tremendous economic enhancement to support our health care infrastructure. The value proposition is these resources will reduce near- and long-term health care costs borne by the individual, the providers, the state, and the taxpayers.

Our state's 15 Community Health Centers welcome these patients. The Health Centers provide a full range of preventive, acute medical, behavioral health, oral health, pharmacy services, and referrals to specialty or hospital care. The Health Centers are Patient-Centered Medical Homes supporting their patients through acute and preventive care, care coordination and case management, translation, transportation, education on health and disease management, wellness initiatives, and engage the patients in caring for themselves. These are critical features to support patients and their families.

There are numerous misleading advertisements predominantly paid for by out-of-state organizations wanting to derail this bill. Look to your New Hampshire Senate Democratic and Republican leadership and the House for their views on this issue. You will learn the vast majority of our legislative leaders understand the value this bill brings to our state and are in favor of this bill. We encourage you to ask your legislator to support SB 413.

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