

An Open Letter to the NH Executive Council: Vote to Accept Exchange Planning Grant

To the Honorable Executive Councilors Raymond Burton, Dan St. Hilaire, Chris Sununu, Ray Wieczorek and David Wheeler:

We, the undersigned, are writing in regard to the Executive Council meeting on Wednesday, December 14th.

The legislature's Joint Fiscal Committee has voted to accept a \$333,000 Exchange Planning grant that's been awarded to New Hampshire, and the Council will now be discussing and voting on whether to approve it. We urge you to vote in favor of accepting the Exchange Planning grant for the following reasons:

- The grant simply provides a chance to explore and evaluate a potential opportunity to strengthen and improve our health insurance marketplace. The Exchange is a model that is intended to make the market function in a way that is more open and competitive and customer-responsive. The Exchange would also allow businesses and consumers to do apples-to-apples comparison-shopping between health insurance policies.
- Exchange Planning dollars have been made available to states to explore whether to pursue a state-based Exchange; if the state chooses not to implement an Exchange, the federal government will set one up in the state to bring needed transparency to the marketplace for New Hampshire's consumers.
- The NH Insurance Department indicates that Exchange Planning grant dollars will be used for an Information Technology (IT) Gap Analysis, enabling New Hampshire to accurately evaluate what kind of IT infrastructure would be required for a range of Exchange models in our state. This will help the legislature to make an informed decision about whether or not to move forward with an Exchange in our state, and also provide New Hampshire with valuable data regardless of whether we pursue a state-based Exchange.
- This grant has no federal strings attached and is not a commitment for the state to do anything more than the IT Gap Analysis. NH Insurance Commissioner Roger Sevigny and the National Association of Insurance Commissioners have both publicly confirmed this fact.
- With New Hampshire families and small businesses hurting from rising health insurance premium costs in NH, it's important for the Executive Council to take action and allow NH to move forward in examining a promising marketplace Exchange option. There is nothing but potential benefit, and absolutely no harm in this.

As NH voters, parents, employees, and business owners, we strongly urge you to do what's right for New Hampshire and approve the Exchange Planning grant at the December 14th meeting:

M. Adams	Lucy Daniels	David Gray	Carol Lafond	Mary Moynihan	Danielle Smith
Dave Allen	Andrew Daubenspeck	Beverly Grenert	Shawn LaFrance	Douglas Neely	Brad Smith
Gordon Allen	Quentin Deming, MD	Theodore Groh	Marjorie Lane	Ken Norton	Gerry Smith
Richard Ames	Monica Derr	Cornelia Grondahl	Raymond Lanier	Gail O'Brien	Susan Smith
Barbara Amos	George Devon	Christopher Grondahl	Wendy Lasch-Williams	Faye O'Neill	Richard Snow
Gloria Andrews	Lisa DiMartino	Arthur Grupp	Tamara Le	Deanna O'Shaughnessy	Hilda Sokol
Kristine Baber	Jeff Donald	Tylaine Guarriello	Rose LeBlanc	Anthony Olson	Pamela Spead
Deborah Bacon Nelson	Tom Donovan	Laura Hainey	Lorraine Leclerc	Kenneth Ortmann	Paul E Spencer
Sharon Beaty	Philip Doster	Ruth Hall	David Leinster	Jessie L. Osborne	Larry Spencer
Mary Beaudin	Erika Downie	Keith Halloran	Joan Levine	Michael O'Sullivan	Diane St Germain
MaryLou Beaver	Jillian Dubois	Chris Hansen	Neil Lewis	Linda Paquette	Brett St. Clair
Louise Belanger	John Dumais	John Hattan	Barry Lockard	Michael Pedersen	Paige St. Cyr
Melissa Bernardin	William Duncan	Brian Hawkins	Douglas Losue	David Pelletier	Judith Stadtman
Adolphe Bernotas	Lucy Edwards	Dwight Haynes	Caroll Lothrop	Amy Pepin	Nan Sterns
Dorothy Bittner	Beverly Edwards	Claire Helfman	Jeanne Ludt	Valerie Piedmont	Pete Sterns
David Blair	Eileen Ehlers	David Herman	Mark MacKenzie	Jennifer Pike	Hillary StPierre
Rebecca Bowers	Kurt Ehrenberg	Jane Hershey	Erica MacKillop	Shana Potvin	Nancy StPierre
Eileen Brady	Chuck Engborg	Mary Heslin	Alan MacKillop	Alix Pratt	Ann Strachan
Peter Braen	JoAnn Fenton	Elizabeth Hess	Benjamin Magowan	Judith Reed	Richard Stuart
Robert Bridgham	Ellen Fineberg	Peter Higbee	Peter Majoy	George Reed	Bill Sweeney
Helen Brock	Sarah Finne, DMD	Kathe Higgins	Steven Manning	Zandra Rice Hawkins	Andrew Terragni
Gail T Brown	Peter Fleming	Timothy Horrigan	Elissa Margolin	Pauline Roberts	Jane Thickstun
Suzanne Butcher	Jon Ford	Lisa Howe	Susan Marquis	Jennifer Rogers	William Thomas
Larry Butcher	Deborah Fournier	Tim Howe	Mary Anne Martel	Michael Rollo	John Thyng
Ed Butler	Aldene Fredenburg	Susan Howe	Peter Martin	Ken Roos	Wesley Tiku
Elli Caldwell	Nora Frederickson	Bill Jackson	Jeanne McAllister	Stuart Russell	Ellen Tirone
Leonard Campbell	Evan Fulmer	Joan Jacobs	Anne McBride	Pamela Ruth	Kelly Torosian
John Carroll	Beth Funicella	Kary Jencks	David McCloskey	Barbara Salvatore	Evanell Trow
Claudia Cass	Gino Funicella	Zack Jonas	Laurie McCray	Robert Salvatore	Jesse Trow
Donna Catanzaro	Beth Funicella	Catherine Jones	Kathy McGhee	Charlotte Sanborn	William Tucker
J Michael Cauble	Melanie Gabree	Lorraine Jost	Kate McKibbin	Jean Sanders	Nick Tulloh
Sarah Chaisson Warner	Kathie Gauthier	Carol Kaplan	Martha McLeod	Richard Scheinblum	Eric Turer
Cynthia L. Chase	Virginia Gavrin	Kenyon Karl	Jean McPheters	Robert Schultz	Philip Valley
Melissa Clark	Joseph Ghiloni	Patricia Kendall	William E Mero	Sharon Seabrook	Marirose Walker
John Colburn	Diana Gibbs	Heather Keyworth	Paul Metzger	Frumie Selchen	Jay Ward
Jack Conaway	Jim Giddings	Conley	Susan Michaelis	Ann Shedd, MD	Kathleen Washburn
Jerry Conner	Barbara Gilbert	Gerard Kiernan	Gunther	Angela Shepard	David Weber
Jaime Contois	Jana Gillespie	Gail Kinney	Laura Mick	Marjorie Shepardson	Chuck Weed
Larry Converse	Margaret Gilmour	Douglas Klauber	Patrick Miller	Gene Sidore	Tim Wessels
April Couture	Peter Gosline	Sarah Jane Knoy	Joan Mirantz	Fritz Siegrist	Josiette White
Joan Crimlisk	Mike Goudzwaard	Stephen LaBranche	Beth Moore	Bree Simmers	Keri Wolfe
Alison Cuomo-Nason	Gail Gouveia	Madeleine Lacey	Michele Moore, MD	Jayne Simoes	Gabriele Zeira
Carol Currier	Anne Grassie	Diana Lacey	Rita Morrison	Roberta Smith	Olivia Zink
					Martha Zoerheide