



AMERICAN OSTEOPATHIC ASSOCIATION

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February 21, 2017

The Honorable Jeb Bradley
Chairman
New Hampshire State Senate Health and Human Services Committee
State House, Room 302
107 North Main Street
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Bradley:

The American Osteopathic Association (AOA) is writing in support of SB 236. This bill would make New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion under the Affordable Care Act permanent. The AOA supports expanding Medicaid as a way to ensure access to affordable, high-quality health care services for all New Hampshire residents.

The AOA represents nearly 130,000 osteopathic physicians (DOs) and osteopathic medical students, including approximately 400 in New Hampshire. The AOA promotes public health, encourages scientific research, serves as the primary certifying body for DOs and is the accrediting agency for osteopathic medical schools. More information on DOs/osteopathic medicine can be found at www.osteopathic.org.

Medicaid finances health services for more than 70 million Americans including children, pregnant women, individuals with disabilities, and working Americans otherwise unable to afford insurance or whose jobs do not offer employer-based coverage.¹ Since the passage of the Affordable Care Act, 32 states, including New Hampshire, have elected to expand Medicaid to cover individuals with incomes up to 138% of the poverty level.² New Hampshire's Medicaid expansion has been credited with reducing the state's uninsured rate by 41%.³

As of June 2016, nearly 200,000 residents have enrolled in Medicaid and the Children's Health Insurance Program.⁴ Any repeal of Medicaid expansion will negatively impact access to health care services for the states low-income population, including nearly 49,000 working residents and children.⁵

The AOA urges you to protect access to health care for all citizens of New Hampshire by **supporting SB 236 in committee**. Should you have any questions, please contact Nick Schilligo, AOA's Associate Vice President for State Government Affairs, at nschilligo@osteopathic.org or (312) 202-8185.

¹ See <https://www.statista.com/statistics/245347/total-medicaid-enrollment-since-1966/>.

² See <http://kff.org/health-reform/state-indicator/state-activity-around-expanding-medicaid-under-the-affordable-care-act/?currentTimeframe=0>.

³ See <http://familiesusa.org/product/defending-health-care-2017-what-stake-new-hampshire>.

⁴ See <https://www.healthinsurance.org/new-hampshire-medicaid/>.

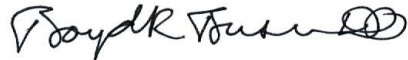
⁵ See <http://familiesusa.org/product/defending-health-care-2017-what-stake-new-hampshire>.

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Boyd R. Buser". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a distinct loop at the end.

Boyd R. Buser, DO

President, AOA

CC: Mark A. Baker, DO, AOA President-elect
William J. Burke, DO, Chair, AOA Department of Governmental Affairs
Richard Thacker, DO, Chair, AOA Bureau of State Government Affairs
Adrienne White-Faines, MPA, AOA Chief Executive Officer
Laura Wooster, MPH, Senior Vice President, AOA Public Policy
Nicholas Schilligo, MS, Associate Vice President, AOA State Government Affairs