

RELEASE: Governor Vetoes Critical Dental Coverage for Granite Staters on Medicaid

Rachel Cole <Rachel.Cole@leg.state.nh.us>

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To: Rachel Cole <Rachel.Cole@leg.state.nh.us>



New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Majority Office

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Rep. Jennifer Bernet

Phone #: 603-271-2136

GOVERNOR VETOES CRITICAL DENTAL COVERAGE FOR GRANITE STATERS ON MEDICAID

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE –Today, the Governor vetoed [HB 250](#), legislation that will require the commissioner of the department of health to contract with dental managed care organizations to provide dental care to persons under Medicaid managed care program. **Rep. Jennifer Bernet (D-Wilton)**, who sponsored HB 692 in 2019 to create the commission on Medicaid dental benefits, released the following statement:

“Oral health is essential to overall health and no person should ever suffer in silence because they cannot afford to see a dentist. Poor oral health and lack of access to preventative care can not only increase the chances that someone ends up needing emergency dental care, but also increases the likelihood that they will develop other systemic health conditions as a result of oral infection.”

“Currently, Medicaid only covers emergency extractions and emergency room costs for conditions that may be associated with untreated oral infections, which undoubtedly costs the state more in the long-run than providing Granite Staters under Medicaid with preventative coverage. As we heard repeated in testimony by managed care organizations and Department of Health officials alike, this legislation is not only socially responsible but fiscally responsible for New Hampshire.”

“It is disturbing that during a global pandemic, when we know that those with untreated health issues like oral infections may have compromised immune systems and are most vulnerable to COVID-19, Governor Sununu would veto this legislation impacting over 90,000 Granite Staters. Governor Sununu’s veto of this critical medical care is an egregious mistake.”

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