

## **Lower Costs, Better Care for Granite Staters**

There is an urgent need to lower health costs, expand coverage, and reduce racial health disparities across New Hampshire. That is why it is essential to ensure critical health care measures supported by President Biden remain in upcoming budget reconciliation legislation, specifically empowering Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices for all Americans, creating a federal solution to close the Medicaid coverage gap, expanding Medicare benefits to include dental, vision, and hearing, and making the premium reductions included in the American Rescue Plan permanent, so Granite Staters can continue to access low-cost coverage.

Americans support bold action to lower health costs and curb soaring drug prices, with [88 percent](#) in favor of allowing Medicare to negotiate with pharmaceutical corporations to lower prices. President Biden is committed to tackling these issues head on, demonstrated by his commitment to expanding health coverage through [enhanced subsidies](#), closing the [Medicaid coverage gap](#), and [support](#) for Medicare drug price negotiation.

Granite Staters depend on affordable health care, expanded access to coverage, and drug pricing reform to live healthy lives. Empowering the federal government to negotiate prescription drug prices would save Americans more than [\\$150 billion](#) at the pharmacy counter and create an additional [\\$500 billion](#) in savings for the federal government that could be reinvested to [reduce premiums](#), [expand Medicare benefits](#) to include dental, vision, and hearing, and close the Medicaid coverage gap in the 12 states that have [refused to accept expansion](#). We must act now.

### **The American Rescue Plan Has Helped 46,670 Granite Staters Access Affordable Care**

- **Strong Marketplace Enrollment.** More than [46,000](#) New Hampshire residents have signed up for coverage through the Marketplace in 2021.
- **Increasing Health Coverage Access For Thousands of Granite Staters.** The American Rescue Plan has [reduced or eliminated](#) Marketplace premiums for thousands in New Hampshire. Under the plan, [22,900](#) uninsured Granite Staters are newly eligible for health coverage tax credits and 1,000 individuals have access to coverage with zero dollar premiums.
- **Meaningful Savings On Premiums.** Premium savings under the American Rescue Plan benefit all Americans. For example, a 60-year-old couple with an annual income of \$75,000 will see their monthly premiums drop from \$1,516, to just \$531, saving more than [\\$985](#) each month.
- **Improving Maternal Health Access.** For new mothers, the American Rescue Plan has created a pathway to coverage, providing states the opportunity to extend [postpartum coverage](#) under Medicaid from 60 days to 12 months following birth.

### **Lowering Prescription Drug Costs**

- **Drug Price Hikes Are Outpacing Inflation.** In 2019, American prescription drug spending soared to [\\$369.7 billion](#), an increase of 5.7 percent, more than [three times](#) the inflation rate for the same period.
- **One Quarter Of Americans Struggle To Access Essential Medications.** [Nearly one in four](#) Americans taking prescription drugs struggles to afford needed medications, with 29 percent reporting not taking medications as instructed within the past year due to cost.
- **Drug Price Negotiation Would Save Billions.** The single most effective measure to bring down drug costs is to empower Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices. Negotiation would save patients more than [\\$150 billion](#) and create [\\$500 billion](#) in savings for the federal government.
- **Reinvestment Of Savings.** When the federal government saves on drug costs, those funds become available to [reduce premiums](#), [expand Medicare benefits](#) to include dental, vision, and hearing, and close the Medicaid coverage gap in the 12 states that have [refused to accept expansion](#).

- **Medicare Drug Price Negotiation Is Overwhelming Popular.** [Nearly nine in ten](#) Americans support empowering Medicare to negotiate prescription drug prices.

### Drug Prices In New Hampshire

- In 2019, Granite Staters spent more than [\\$23 million](#) in cash on prescription drugs.
- In 2017, [22 percent](#) of New Hampshire residents reported that they stopped taking a medication as prescribed due to cost.
- In 2018, 4,780 New Hampshire Medicare Part D beneficiaries without low-income subsidies paid an average of [\\$3,388](#) in out-of-pocket drug costs.
- [More than 320,000](#) Granite Staters have chronic conditions like cancer, diabetes, and asthma that require prescription drugs for treatment and management.
- Granite Staters overwhelmingly are concerned with the rising cost of prescription medications. [74 percent](#) of Granite Staters over 45 view prescription drug affordability as an extremely or very important issue.

### Expanding Coverage

- **Millions Nationwide Would Gain Stable Coverage.** [4.2 million](#) uninsured people would gain coverage if the American Rescue Plan's subsidies are made permanent, and millions more would continue to save on health care costs.
- **Permanent Health Coverage Subsidies Would Benefit Older Granite Staters.** 46,670 Granite Staters selected a plan on the Marketplace in 2021, with older adults between [55 and 64](#) making up more than a third of enrollees. The American Rescue Plan offers [significant relief](#) for older individuals, including those at 400 percent of the federal poverty level.

### Expanding Medicare Benefits

- **More than 240,000 Granite Staters Would Benefit From Expanded Coverage.** Nearly [38 million](#) traditional Medicare enrollees would gain dental, vision, and hearing coverage if Medicare benefits were expanded. Due to lack of coverage, [nearly half](#) of Medicare beneficiaries did not seek dental care in the past year.
- **Medicare Beneficiaries Are 22 Percent Of New Hampshire's Residents.** In 2018, more than [one in five](#) Granite Staters were Medicare beneficiaries. Recent reports have found between [47](#) and [64](#) percent of Medicare beneficiaries do not have dental coverage, [74 percent](#) lack vision coverage, and [76 percent](#) go without hearing coverage.
- **Income And Racial Inequity Increase Health Disparities.** Half of all Medicare beneficiaries live on annual incomes below [\\$29,650](#), pushing dental, vision, and hearing coverage out of reach. For [beneficiaries of color](#) or those living in [rural](#) areas, accessing these essential benefits has become increasingly challenging.

### Senator Maggie Hassan Is Standing Up For Granite Staters' Care

**Senator Hassan Was An Enthusiastic Supporter Of The American Rescue Plan, Providing Relief For Thousands Of New Hampshire Families.** Hassan [voted for](#) the American Rescue Plan, historic legislation that includes measures to expand coverage and to dramatically lower health care costs for thousands of New Hampshire families. In addition to providing critical pandemic relief, the ARP lowers premiums for people purchasing coverage through the marketplaces and expands access to financial assistance for more middle-class families. Hassan [praised the law](#), saying that it “will help us get more vaccines in arms, get our children back in schools, put people back to work, and help families and small businesses pay their bills.”

**Senator Hassan Supports Efforts To Allow Medicare To Negotiate Drug Prices.** Sen. Hassan is a [cosponsor](#) of the Empowering Medicare Seniors to Negotiate Drug Prices Act, legislation which would allow for Medicare to negotiate the best possible price of prescription drugs to cut costs.

### **Representative Ann Kuster Is Standing Up For Granite Staters' Care**

**Representative Kuster Voted For Historic Legislation To Lower Prescription Drug Prices.** Rep. Kuster voted for the 2019 Elijah E. Cummings Lower Drug Costs Now Act ([H.R. 3](#)), historic legislation to drastically reduce Americans’ prescription drug prices by up to 55% and save taxpayers nearly \$500 billion over the next 10 years. H.R. 3 included the most comprehensive drug pricing reform in American history and the largest expansion to Medicare’s benefits in decades.

**Representative Kuster Supported Providing Relief For New Hampshire Families With The American Rescue Plan.** Kuster [voted for](#) the American Rescue Plan, historic legislation that includes measures to expand coverage and to dramatically lower health care costs for thousands of New Hampshire families. In addition to providing critical pandemic relief, the ARP lowers premiums for people purchasing coverage through the marketplaces and expands access to financial assistance for more middle-class families. Kuster [praised the law](#), saying “There is no greater public health or economic priority than putting an end to this pandemic and getting crucial relief to those who need it most...There’s a lot of work to be done to recover and rebuild, and this forward-looking legislation provides the resources needed to build back better so no one is left behind.”

### **Gov. Chris Sununu Is Part Of The Problem**

#### **Sununu Opposed The American Rescue Plan And Relief For Granite Staters**

**Chris Sununu Imposed Onerous Work Requirements On Granite Staters Who Have Coverage Through Medicaid.** In May 2018, New Hampshire became one of the first states in the country to impose a [work requirement](#) on nearly 50,000 adults who receive Medicaid. Sununu’s work requirements are among the [strictest in the nation](#), requiring beneficiaries to report at least 100 hours per month of work, job training, education or volunteer activities, compared to 80 hours in other states, and stripping people of coverage after only a month of failure to meet these requirements. Although New Hampshire [temporarily delayed](#) implementation of its work requirement before a federal judge struck down the policy, a study from the [Urban Institute](#) found that up to 17,000 Granite Staters were at risk of being disenrolled from the program.

#### **Sununu Has Received Tens Of Thousands Of Dollars In Pharmaceutical Contributions**

**Gov. Sununu Has Received Tens Of Thousands In Contributions From Pharmaceutical Companies.** Over the course of 2020, Chris Sununu has received thousands in [contributions](#) from major pharmaceutical PACs.