



GOLD STANDARD



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HOUSE SESSION - THURSDAY, MAY 2, 2019

SB 139, establishing a committee to study options for lowering student debt.

SB 139

Education: OTP 13-7

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill forms a committee to study NH taxpayers offering a guarantee of refinancing student loans.

- This bill establishes a committee that presumes a solution to student debt reduction is for New Hampshire taxpayers to assume partial responsibility for student debt. Among the items listed for study are "The committee shall review the possibility of a state guarantee of refinancing student loans and explore the possibility of a state guarantee of refinancing student loans...".
- A study by the New York Federal Reserve (www.newyorkfed.org/research/staff_reports/sr733.html) found that a significant factor in unsustainable cost increases is the existing government interference in the marketplace: "We find a pass-through effect on tuition of changes in subsidized loan maximums of about 60 cents on the dollar, and smaller but positive effects for unsubsidized federal loans." Adding additional state interference in the marketplace may defer some of the immediate impacts of the prior government interference but will further exacerbate the cost growth problem.
- The study committee is directed to solicit advice from stakeholders who have a vested interest in continuing the unsustainable rate of cost increases for higher education (e.g. university leaders, bankers, etc.) by continuing to shift and now disperse costs, which further separates the consumer of the product from the costs.

**NAY
OTP**

SB 290, relative to the New Hampshire granite advantage health care program.

SB 290

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs: OTP 16-5

ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill allows the use of general funds for expanded Medicaid in New Hampshire.

- Medicaid is a welfare program for able-bodied adults in their working years. The medical insurance provided has features such as no premiums, no co-pays, no deductibles, and non-emergency transportation that are simply not available to workers with full-time jobs. These benefits create a strong disincentive to full-time employment and career advancement. This bill expands these negative incentives by reducing work requirements and setting up a trigger to eliminate the requirement entirely when 500 beneficiaries are suspended or disenrolled as a result of noncompliance with the reduced work requirements.
- A free-market approach to health care should be the main priority of the legislature. This is the only way to have sustainably lower costs and increase access for the majority of Granite Staters.

**NAY
OTP**