April 4, 2018

The Honorable Chris Sununu  
Office of the Governor  
107 North Main St  
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu,

On behalf of people with cystic fibrosis (CF) living in New Hampshire, we write regarding the proposal to expand Medicaid coverage to some low-income adults (SB 313). We support any effort by the state to increase access to affordable, high-quality health care coverage and applaud the state for its efforts to expand eligibility for the Medicaid program. However, we oppose any policy that creates an additional barrier to eligibility or access to medically necessary benefits, such as work and community engagement requirements.

We urge you to continue to expand Medicaid coverage to individuals with incomes up to 138% of the federal poverty level, without the work and community engagement activities requirement as a condition of eligibility. Medicaid plays an important role in helping people with cystic fibrosis afford the specialized care and treatments they need to stay healthy. Community engagement and employment requirements introduce additional barriers to access, which may cause interruptions and delays in treatment and care. While many Medicaid recipients work, people with CF may be unable to do so depending on their health status or the amount of time they need to spend on treatments and other activities to maintain or improve their health. We appreciate the “medically frail” exemption; however, even people who would qualify for “medically frail” status are at risk of being denied coverage as they may not understand how to apply for an exemption or have the means to submit an exemption application.

The Cystic Fibrosis Foundation appreciates your attention to this important issue. As the health care landscape continues to evolve, we look forward to working with the state of New Hampshire to improve the lives of all people with cystic fibrosis. Please consider us a resource moving forward.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Dwight  
Senior VP of Policy & Advocacy  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

Lisa Feng, DrPH  
Senior Director of Policy & Advocacy  
Cystic Fibrosis Foundation

CC: Speaker Gene Chandler  
Representative Stephen Shurtleff