Letter: Medicaid expansion bill is important, imperfect

Saturday, March 31, 2018

I strongly support Medicaid expansion and its renewal as expressed in Senate Bill 313. Does that mean I am in love with the entirety of SB 313 as amended? No!

There are some problems, i.e. some “warts on the toad” as it were. But first I would like to focus through a different lens for a moment. SB 313 is on its face a legislative exercise.

I submit it is more.

Legislation is by definition the mechanism or process by which society institutes and codifies our moral inclinations. The most basic legislative paradigm is to care for the public. At its roots, legislation is a moral obligation.

In considering those with inadequate means, providing health care is one such moral obligation especially in the midst of a society that possesses such wealth. Not providing even the most fundamental access to health care is an abrogation of our collective moral responsibility.

This bill, under the direction of Sens. Jeb Bradley and Dan Feltes, and Health and Human Services Commissioner Jeffrey Meyers, has passed the Senate and is now in committee in the House. I hope each of us can understand the importance of caring for the underprivileged and needy and, therefore, take the time to let your representative know just how important their vote is in getting this measure passed in the House so we’ll have a chance to work on those “warts.”

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(The writer is past president of the New Hampshire Medical Society.)