



For Immediate Release

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Divided We Fail Continues Momentum in New Hampshire
Governor Lynch Declares January 13 Divided We Fail Recognition Day

Manchester – Governor John Lynch declared today “Divided We Fail Recognition Day” as the second phase of the Divided We Fail campaign shifts into high gear. For nearly two years, four of the most influential and dissimilar organizations – AARP, Service Employees International Union, National Federation of Independent Business and Business Roundtable – put aside their vast differences to come together to make sure every politician knew just how desperately important health and financial security are to every American.

“We have worked hard to increase access for affordable, quality health care for more of our citizens, by expanding children’s health and passing a new more affordable health insurance plan for small businesses,” said New Hampshire Governor John Lynch. “We must continue to work together to make progress on this important issue.”

Elected officials in New Hampshire have already put their stamp of approval on this bipartisan effort. Last year, Divided We Fail received the endorsement of Governor, Executive Council, entire Congressional Delegation, 24 of 24 State Senators, 13 of 13 mayors, and numerous members of the State House of Representatives. Nationally, 372 members of Congress have committed to putting aside partisan differences and taking action on health care and financial security.

“A staggering 1.6 million Americans – and several thousand right here in New Hampshire – have pledged they want their elected officials to come to the table to find ways to compromise,” said AARP New Hampshire State Director Kelly Clark. “The momentum started pre-election must be sustained. Skyrocketing health care costs are leaving New Hampshire families struggling, straining government budgets and hurting the global competitiveness of our employers. This burden will only get worse without action now.”

Over the next two years, AARP and its Divided We Fail partners will be working with the administration and US Congress to reach common-sense bipartisan approaches to America’s most pressing national priorities. New Hampshire’s Congressional Delegation offered these comments about Divided We Fail and the 111th Congress:

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Senator Judd Gregg: "I commend Divided We Fail for its efforts to spur bipartisan action to improve the fiscal health of our nation and ensure that individuals and families in New Hampshire and throughout our country have access to quality, affordable health care. As we begin this new session of Congress, I am hopeful that by working across the aisle with my colleagues in the Senate, the House, and the incoming Administration, we can develop meaningful bipartisan solutions to ensure access to health care and the long-term solvency of our nation."

Senator Jeanne Shaheen: "The men and women working for AARP's Divided We Fail campaign are tireless advocates fighting for quality, affordable health care and life-long economic security for every American. With so many middle class families struggling under this recession, their work is more important now than ever. I applaud their efforts, and I'm committed to working with President-elect Obama, my colleagues in the Senate and groups like Divided We Fail to move in a new direction on health care and financial stability."

Representative Paul Hodes: "Access to high-quality, affordable health care is an issue that goes beyond political parties. While Republicans and Democrats disagree on certain issues, we can all agree that, especially during these difficult economic times, it is essential that every Granite Stater has access to affordable health care."

New Hampshire residents can get involved and lend their own voices by going to www.dividedwefail.org.

Divided We Fail

It's time we ensure health and long-term financial security for all. That's why AARP, Business Roundtable, the Service Employees International Union and the National Federation of Independent Business, are leading Divided We Fail, an initiative to give voice to millions of Americans who are tired of letting Washington gridlock stand in the way of affordable, quality health care and long-term financial security – the most pressing domestic issues facing our nation. Common sense solutions are needed, and everyone – individuals, businesses and government – has a role and a responsibility in ensuring health and financial security for all.

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