



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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***Despite Some Progress, Too Many Granite Staters are Still Being Left Behind***

*Concord, NH:* Data released by the Census Bureau last month show that poverty remains stubbornly high. In New Hampshire, 9.2 percent of people (1 in 10) were poor in 2014 – roughly the same number as in 2013 when 8.7 percent were poor. The child poverty rate also rose, with 13 percent (1 in 8) of New Hampshire children living in poverty in 2014 – an increase from 2013 when 10.2 percent of our children were poor.

“In order to cut child poverty in New Hampshire we need to maintain and expand investments in programs with proven success in helping move people out of poverty,” said MaryLou Beaver, director of Every Child Matters in New Hampshire. “Human needs programs like the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC) and the Child Tax Credit (CTC) lifted 16,000 Granite Staters, including 8,000 children, out of poverty each year, on average, during 2011 to 2013. But if Congress does not act, funding cuts scheduled to take effect this fall will threaten to leave more New Hampshire children and their families behind.”

Today *Every Child Matters in New Hampshire* and the *Coalition on Human Needs* are releasing a report based on the Census Bureau data. Every Child Matters in New Hampshire reached out to our four Members of Congress for their reaction to this report. Here are the comments from those who responded by our deadline:

Senator Jeanne Shaheen: *“This report shows that many federal programs are working to lift New Hampshire families out of poverty. We need to end sequestration and reach a budget deal that will strengthen these programs, not cut them as the latest Republican budgets have.”*

Congresswoman Ann McLane Kuster: *“This study reminds us all that we must keep fighting to help the most vulnerable among us. I will continue my work in Congress to protect funding for vital programs that Granite State families desperately need, such as SNAP, Head Start, Housing Choice vouchers, and the Earned Income Tax Credit. We must ensure that every New Hampshire child has the support they need to grow and succeed.”*

Congressman Frank Guinta: *“I’ve served New Hampshire as a state rep and alderman, as Manchester’s mayor and now U.S. congressman. I’ve had the opportunity to meet families facing economic challenges and present solutions at both the local and federal levels. Every Child Matters in New Hampshire is shining a spotlight on this issue of vital importance. Their report shows the need for increased focus on the immediate challenges of poverty, as well as the need to address its underlying causes, in order to help current and future generations succeed.”*

“New Hampshire continues to recover from the Great Recession, but progress is too slow” said Beaver. “It’s not too late for Congress to change course, however, and end sequestration. Increasing investments in safe and secure housing and to programs like Head Start will give these children a better foundation for success and will benefit New Hampshire and our country as a whole in the future. And Congress can do so without cutting safety net programs like SNAP, EITC, CTC and Medicaid. The choice is theirs’.”

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***Every Child Matters in New Hampshire is a 501(c)(3) non-profit, non-partisan organization working to make public investments in children, youth, and families a national political priority. For more information visit our website at [www.everychildmatters.org/nh](http://www.everychildmatters.org/nh)***

***The Coalition on Human Needs (CHN) is an alliance of national organizations working together to promote public policies which address the needs of low-income and other vulnerable populations. For more information visit our website at <http://www.chn.org/>***