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State races to preserve Medicaid coverage

Agencies seek ways to prevent loss of care for 300,000 as rules change

By Jason Laughlin
GLOBE STAFF

Next January may seem distant to Bay Staters still shaking off memories of heavy snow and frigid days, but for physicians and state health officials, 2027 is approaching all too quickly.

On Jan. 1, a national work requirement for Medicaid recipients will take effect that could mean roughly 300,000 people in the state losing their insurance.

Massachusetts has pledged to protect Medicaid

5 million

The number of people nationwide who are projected to lose their insurance under new federal requirements

coverage for as many people as possible. But keeping this promise will be a massive undertaking that requires outreach to members, hiring and training new staff, and implementing costly tech upgrades.

Under the new rules, many Medicaid recipients between the ages of 19 and 64 will have to prove they work, attend school, or volunteer at least 80 hours a month unless they meet certain exemptions, including pregnancy, caring for children 14 and younger, and being medically frail. States will also have to check members' eligibility twice a year instead of annually.

Based on the experiences of other states, most of those who lose their insurance will be people eligible for coverage who fail to keep up with the additional documentation.

Massachusetts' goal is to automate as much of the documentation process as possible to take the burden off residents. But it's hindered by a lack of guidance from the federal government, experts said.

The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service-
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Influential veterans group backs Platner

Could give broader appeal to Maine Democrat

By Sam Brodey
GLOBE STAFF

WASHINGTON — As he works to consolidate support among national Democrats, Graham Platner, now the party's presumptive nominee for US Senate in Maine, has picked up the backing of a significant player in party politics.

VoteVets, the most influential Democratic-aligned veterans' political organization, is endorsing Platner, according to a statement exclusively shared with the Globe.

Retired US Army Major General Paul Eaton, a senior adviser to the group, noted Platner's extensive military service, which included four combat tours in Iraq and Afghanistan as a Marine.

"Graham knows the cost of service and what happens when we let leaders in Washington march us into failed forever wars," said Eaton, who criticized incumbent Republican Senator Susan Collins for failing to stop President Trump from harming the economy and putting US troops in harm's way in the Middle East.

"The choice in this race couldn't be more clear. . . . We look forward to helping him win this race and bringing much needed accountability to Washington," said Eaton.

In a statement, Platner accused longtime lawmakers such as Collins of approving military actions abroad while defense industry interests profit, "and now they're trying to do it again with another forever war in Iran," he said.

"I'm running to end the forever wars and the careers of the politicians who keep supporting them, and I'm honored to have the support of VoteVets in this fight," Platner said.

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PHOTOS BY PAT GREENHOUSE/GLOBE STAFF

Firefighters at Boston Fire Rescue Co. 2 embraced after speaking about the death of Firefighter Robert Kilduff Jr.

Firefighter remembered as 'heart of the firehouse'

24-year veteran died after fall from burning house in Dorchester

By Sarah Rahal and Camilo Fonseca
GLOBE STAFF

and Camille Bugayong
and Nathan Metcalf
GLOBE CORRESPONDENTS

The day after a veteran Boston firefighter died after falling from a third-story window during a three-alarm blaze in Dorchester, his crew and friends remembered him as "the heart of the firehouse" who devoted his life to helping others.



Robert Kilduff Jr.

Robert "Bobby" Kilduff Jr. was working to extinguish the blaze at 18 Treadway Road on Saturday. He suffered severe injuries and was rushed to Boston Medical Center, where he died. He was 53 years old and lived in West Roxbury.

"He was one of the most tactically proficient firefighters on this job," said Fire Lieutenant Greg Kelly on Sunday. "He was a Marine, and on this Memorial Day weekend, we ask you remember him and the first responders of Boston. . . . I can say for sure, he



On Sunday, a firetruck remained at the scene of the Treadway Road blaze.

was exactly where he wanted to be."

The fire broke out about 8 p.m. Saturday, and five residents were home at the time. All residents escaped safely without injury, though all were displaced.

The blaze spread through all three floors and burned through the roof, according to the Boston Fire Department, which said firefighters deployed "multiple ground and aeri-

FIREFIGHTER, Page A10

City-run courses are far above par

Quality play and affordable prices keep golfers coming back

By Billy Baker
GLOBE STAFF

About 25 years ago, a golfer from Hyde Park started complaining about the conditions at the city's two golf courses. This is not a particularly unusual declaration for golfers, who will seize on any excuse for their poor play.

What was unique is that the man was Tom Menino, then the mayor of Boston, and so he pulled a very Tom Menino move. He fired the management company that was running the city's municipal courses, George Wright in Hyde Park and the William J. Devine course at Franklin Park; put out bids for a new management company; refused all bids; and instead announced the courses

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DAVID L. RYAN/GLOBE STAFF

David Brade of Boston (left) and Rob Colameta of Needham played at the William J. Devine course, which is run by the City of Boston.

Prosecutor declines to charge ICE protesters

By Paul Heintz
GLOBE STAFF

WILLISTON, Vt. — Early on May 14, Hank Prensley slipped into a drab office park to take up a position before the mirrored glass doors of a US Immigration and Customs Enforcement surveillance center.

For the next four hours, he and about 20 other protesters locked arms and kept ICE employees from entering or exiting the facility until police arrested four of them, including Prensley.

"You have to throw yourself on the gears of the machine at some point," he later explained.

The 79-year-old retired real estate agent from nearby Burlington knows the drill: In February, he and a dozen other protesters were cited for criminal trespass when they refused to leave the same building.

But they never saw the inside of a courtroom for that incident. And they may not this time, ei-

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The United States is close to reaching a deal with Iran that would end the war and reopen the Strait of Hormuz, regional officials said. **A2.**

Russia unleashed a prolonged missile and drone attack on Ukraine's capital and nearby

towns. **A3.**

Massachusetts immigration advocates decry a new policy requiring most foreigners seeking green cards to apply in their home country, calling it a pretext to get immigrants to leave and not return. **B1.**



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Soggy start

Monday: Warmer, rainy. High: 70-75. Low: 58-63.

Tuesday: Pleasant, some sun. High: 76-81. Low: 63-68.

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Obituaries, **C9.**