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Press Release



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Contact:

Communications Office
(603)271-2121

Governor Hassan Visits Omni Components to Highlight Gateway to Work Initiative

HUDSON – As part of her efforts to support innovative, job-creating businesses and develop an even stronger workforce that they need to grow and thrive, Governor Maggie Hassan today visited Omni Components in Hudson to highlight her Gateway to Work initiative.

“While our low unemployment rate and record number of employed Granite Staters demonstrate that our economy continues to strengthen, it is also a signal that innovative businesses need more workers now in order to continue to grow and thrive,” Governor Hassan said. “Gateway to Work has support from the business community and legislators from both parties because it will help move people off of public assistance into sustainable careers and provide innovative businesses like Omni with more of the workers they need, and I continue to urge the legislative fiscal committee to approve the transfer of existing federal funds so that we can get this important program up and running as soon as possible.”

Announced in Governor Hassan’s State of the State Address, Gateway to Work will use repurposed existing federal funds to help New Hampshire’s citizens succeed in the workforce by strengthening job training, creating new apprenticeship opportunities, helping remove the barriers that cause too many citizens to fail in the workplace and helping young people in the Granite State get a leg up on their futures. Gateway to Work has received strong support from the state’s business community. In addition to today’s visit to Omni Components, the Governor has also recently visited [Exeter Hospital](#) and [Hitchiner Manufacturing](#) to highlight the program.

“It was a pleasure to host Governor Hassan and her team, including Nashua Community College President Lucille Jordan and New Hampshire Employment Security Commissioner George Copadis, for this important initiative and discussion in our state,” said Frank Stone, Chief Executive Officer of Omni Components. “The Gateway to Work program should continue to give our state a competitive advantage by strengthening and expanding our existing dedicated workforce, and we are committed to supporting the Governor’s initiative at Omni Components.”

Even using conservative assumptions of participants long-term employment success, the Department of Health and Human Services estimates Gateway to Work – including the investments in related child care and youth programs – offers the potential for a significant return on investment to state and federal taxpayers over three years. Although there is no general fund cost at all to this program, State of New Hampshire taxpayers will still see an estimated savings of more than \$6 million over three years.

The Department of Health and Human Services will collaborate with New Hampshire Employment Security, the Department of Resources and Economic Development, the Community College System of New Hampshire, and New Hampshire nonprofits to administer the program, refer participants and recruit businesses. The Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee will meet on Friday, August 5, and consider an item allowing federal funds to be repurposed for Gateway to Work.

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