



New Hampshire Senate
News Release

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Senate leaders praise putting accountability in place for Step Two of Medicaid Managed Care Program

Concord, NH – SB 553, was signed Monday, providing the foundation to develop a plan to carefully and thoughtfully implement Step Two of the Medicaid Managed Care Program in our state, serving nursing home patients, as well as individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders.

“As one of the original sponsors of managed care, our core goal was to provide coordinated care with a focus on improving an individual’s overall health. Managed care moves us away from an antiquated fee-for-service system, as most states have done, resulting in greater efficiencies and improved health outcomes,” said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem). “While I still believe in these critical goals, we have been frustrated by the lack of leadership, accountability and communication in working with the Step Two population. This bill puts key accountability benchmarks in place to move forward carefully and thoughtfully with managed care in a way that listens to those with developmental disabilities and nursing home patients to meet their needs. I applaud Senator Forrester for her leadership on this issue.”

“By delaying Step Two and allowing a working group to develop a plan first, we will make sure there is strong continuity of care. As a member of the Fiscal Committee, I look forward to reviewing the proposal the working group produces and implementing a plan to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities and acquired brain disorders maintain the level of care they are accustomed to as they transition to managed care in the future,” said Morse.

“I am happy to learn that the Governor has signed SB 553 into law. I was proud to be the prime sponsor of this bill, which creates new protections for Medicaid recipients who receive nursing home, home care, brain injury, and developmental disabilities services. Under SB 553, there will be a new, from-the-ground-up process by which a plan for implementing future segments of Medicaid managed care will be developed,” said Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith). “SB 553 will give Medicaid recipients and providers a substantial voice in plan development going forward, and the orderly and transparent process set out in SB 553 also will give the Legislature and executive branch ample opportunity to weigh in on the plan that this process will produce.”

“I look forward to continuing to work to see that stakeholder input, quality of care, transparency, efficiency, and plain old common sense will be major hallmarks of the State’s Medicaid program in the future,” added Forrester.

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