



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Media Contact:

Kate Spiner

(603) 271-3043

Kate.Spiner@leg.state.nh.us

Morse, Bradley praise passage of legislation to overhaul HHS

Concord, NH – Today, the Senate Health and Human Services committee voted unanimously to recommend HB 400 ought to pass with amendment. HB 400 will provide additional resources for mental health care and provide much needed relief to the New Hampshire Hospital and the Department of Health and Human Services which has struggled to keep pace with the number of cases dealing with patients who suffer from mental illness. The amendment also makes key reforms to the Division of Children Youth and Families to ensure our laws prioritize child safety. Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) and Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro) issued the following statements:

“This legislation is long overdue and I am happy to have worked with Senator Bradley on this amendment to help our state’s most vulnerable citizens receive specialized care to treat mental illness,” said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem). “It is unacceptable that there continues to be a waitlist at New Hampshire Hospital and patients with mental illness sit in emergency rooms without proper care. It is imperative that we live within our means, but protecting children and those suffering from mental illness must always be a top priority.”

“Amending this legislation to provide additional mental health beds across the state and establishing greater oversight at DCYF is a great start to address two pressing issues at the Department of Health and Human Services,” said Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro), prime sponsor of the amendment. “By passing this legislation we are making a commitment to the people of New Hampshire that the health and safety of our children and families will always come first. I commend everyone who has been in support of this legislation and have helped in crafting this solution and encourage my colleagues to send this legislation to the Governor’s desk.”

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