



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Senate praises signing expanded mental health beds, DCYF oversight bill into law

Concord, NH - Today, Governor Chris Sununu signed HB 400 into law, expanding mental health care services and restructuring the Division of Children Youth and Families.

"Seeing first hand all of the people waiting in the hallways at a local hospital for a mental health care bed at New Hampshire Hospital, sometimes for weeks, signaled to us that we needed to take immediate action and address this issue," said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem). "This legislation which became law today will help the state of New Hampshire expand the mental health care resources available and develop a 10-year plan for providing care across the state. This legislation reflects our commitment to addressing the mental health care needs of our citizens from all sides now and into the future by increasing direct access to care."

"I am pleased to see the state come together so quickly on this critical legislation to expand provisions aimed at treating various mental health care needs. It is unacceptable for our citizens to be kept waiting for treatment and this is a positive step for creating a substantive long term plan to alleviating the dramatic need for more mental health care community services in our state," said Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro). "This legislation also serves to address the need for greater transparency and oversight at the Division of Children Youth and Families to ensure that this agency is protecting New Hampshire's children from abuse and neglect."

"Serving on the Commission on Child Abuse Fatalities, it was clear that we needed to do more to protect children in unsafe homes in New Hampshire," said Senator Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry). "Realizing there are a number of issues that need to be addressed, expanding the agency oversight by creating the office of the child advocate is one way we could make significant progress. This leadership position will be a direct line from the governor's office and will provide greater transparency within the agency. We hope this will ultimately allow us to make stronger recommendations for the improved safety and future of our kids."

"I am pleased by the Governor's support of this measure by signing this bill into law today and hope we can continue to make prudent steps toward ensuring the safety of every one of our state's children."

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