

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kyle Baker 271-2609

SB 236-FN, making the Medicaid expansion law permanent.

Hearing Date: February 21, 2017

Time Opened: 4:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 4:15 p.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Bradley, Avar, Gray and Fuller Clark

Members of the Committee Absent : Senator Hennessey

Bill Analysis: This bill makes the Medicaid expansion law permanent. The program would currently expire December 31, 2018.

Sponsors:

Sen. Fuller Clark

Sen. Hennessey

Sen. Kahn

Sen. Lasky

Sen. McGilvray

Sen. Soucy

Sen. Watters

Sen. Woodburn

Rep. Rosenwald

Rep. Shurtleff

Rep. Wallner

Rep. J. MacKay

Rep. Horrigan

Who supports the bill: Sen. Fuller Clark, SD# 21; Michele Merritt , New Futures

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Martha Fuller Clark – Senate District 21

- Introduced an amendment that would extend expanded Medicaid for two more years rather than making it permanent.
- This program has been widely successful and it would be best made permanent.
- But we understand that the ACA is going to be changed in some way or another so it makes sense to extend the program for two more years to wait and see what happens.
- The program has been credited with the reduction of emergency room admission and has also brought new insurance competition into the state while keeping insurance rates lower than most other states.

- There is no long term assurance that the program can continue but it makes sense to keep the program funded for the next two years.
- Primary care programs have reached out to say that without the money they received from the increase in coverage they would not be able to care for the increase in populations that they are now covering.

Michele Merritt – New Futures

- Supports
- NHHPP is one of the biggest tools we have to treat the substance use disorder in the state
- Over 10,000 people have accessed treatment since this program went live.
- This program has been the driver for any growth in the addiction treatment community.
- Would support Senator Fuller Clark's amendment to extend the program for 2 more years rather than make it permanent.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Pending

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: March 6, 2017