

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kyle Baker 271-2609

SB 222, relative to the New Hampshire birth conditions program.

Hearing Date: March 7, 2017

Time Opened: 2:00 p.m.

Time Closed: 2:30 p.m.

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill clarifies the definition of "birth condition" for the purposes of the New Hampshire birth conditions program.

This bill is a request of the department of health and human services.

Sponsors:

Sen. Carson

Sen. Bradley

Sen. Avar

Sen. Fuller Clark

Rep. Kotowski

Rep. M. Griffin

Rep. Lundgren

Who supports the bill: Krista Morris, DHHS; Patricia Tilley, DHHS; Dr. Ben Chan, DHHS; Senator Sharon Carson, SD# 14; Senator Kevin Avar, SD# 12; Senator Martha Fuller Clark, SD# 21; Kayla Montgomery, Planned Parenthood; David Conway, NH Board of Medicine

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Sharon Carson (Prime Sponsor) – Senate District 14

- The bill originally defined birth conditions, and there is now an amendment.
- Current law only allows the birth condition program to follow the guideline of the national list, which did not include microcephaly.
- The amendment would allow a physician to prescribe antimicrobials to a person who has not been to see the physician. This process is used to prevent the spread of STDs.

Krista Morris, Patricia Tilley, - DHHS

- Birth Conditions are common and costly in NH, in the US they effect 1 in 33 people.
- DHHS have the ability to look at cases of birth defects to better get information on how to best help.
- NH received funding from the CDC to treat the Zika virus but the current law does not allow the department to collect information on cases in our State.
- We must ensure all families have access to resources to take care of their children
- We support this bill because we do not know what the next case that affects children is, Zika was not widely known before the last couple years, and this bill would give us the ability to respond quickly to new threats.

Dr. Benjamin Chan – State Epidemiologist

- Speaking on the amendment
- The amendment would allow a physician to prescribe a limited run of antibiotics for a patient he or she has not seen personally.
- This is useful for people who do not have access to a healthcare provider or they have been exposed to infections such as gonorrhea.
- NH is currently undergoing an outbreak of gonorrhea and chlamydia and this amendment would allow a physician to provide a prescription for a patient to give to their partner to help treat these cases.
- This is considered the best practice in the provider community.
- It does not require a provider to treat in this way but it does allow them to if they choose to.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Ought to Pass with Amendment

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: March 9, 2017