

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Kyle Baker 271-2609

HB 484, establishing a commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

Hearing Date: April 18, 2017

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

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill establishes a commission on the seacoast cancer cluster investigation.

Sponsors:

Rep. Messmer
Rep. Berrien
Rep. H. Marsh
Sen. Feltes

Rep. Cushing
Rep. Bean
Sen. Innis
Sen. Bradley

Rep. Malloy
Rep. P. Gordon
Sen. Fuller Clark

Who supports the bill: Rep. Carol McGuire; Sen. Fuller Clark; Rep. Remmy Cushing; Rep. Mindi Messmer; David Bordell; Paula Skelley; Lindsey Carmichael; Deborah White; Alayna Davis; Michelle Dalton; Rep. Jerry Knirk

Who opposes the bill: None

Who is neutral on the bill: None

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Rep. Mindi Messmer – Rock 24

- This bill passed the House unanimously.
- A few years ago it was apparent that there was a cluster or cancer diagnosis in the seacoast area.
- In 2016 DHHS reported that it was a CDC confirmed cancer cluster.
- A task force was established and there was an investigation done to identify environmental triggers.
- The Coakley Landfill was identified as a possible source of the cancer causing agents but it is not possible to confirm that at this time.
- This commission would replace the task force and allow work to continue to be done on this issue.

- This commission has a sunset date and does have interim guidelines for what the commission should be looking at.

Sen. Fuller Clark – Usually we do not have two senators on a commission but in this case it is to allow the two Senator’s representing this community to serve, correct?

Rep. Mesmer – Yes.

Sen. Bradley – So you would like us to add Rye to this list of the towns represented. Should we reduce the number of residents from the seacoast?

Rep. Mesmer- It is up to you but I would like to keep it where it is.

Paula Kelly

- This is a very important issue to study.
- There are many possible environmental causes that could cause this cancer.
- Daughter died from a very aggressive type of cancer.
- Children should not have to suffer this fate and this commission would hopefully work to identify the environmental causes.

Lindsay Carmichael – Public Health Professional

- It is important to keep the work being done in the commission independent so it continues to get important work done.
- It is also important to identify environmental dangers and seek to make sure the information is made available to the public.

Alayna Davis – Seacoast Resident

- There needs to be a designated group of professionals that work to identify and protect the public from many environmental dangers in the seacoast area.
- There are many superfund sites in the seacoast area.
- This commission is the most efficient way to address this problem.
- Families living in this area should have more transparency on the effects of the environmental dangers.

Rep. Jerry Knirk – Carrol 3

- If you don’t seek you do not learn.
- We need to gather the data to identify the causes.
- Should lead the way in looking at these environmental triggers.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: None

Neutral Information Presented: None

Future Action: Ought to Pass with Amendment

KRB

Date Hearing Report completed: April 21, 2017