

# Senate Health and Human Services Committee

*Doug Marino 271-8631*

**SB 274**, relative to the newborn home visiting program.

**Hearing Date:** February 12, 2019

**Time Opened:** 3:45 p.m.

**Time Closed:** 4:04 p.m.

**Members of the Committee Present:** Senators Sherman, Fuller Clark, Chandley, Bradley and Gray

**Members of the Committee Absent :** None

**Bill Analysis:** This bill declares that the newborn home visiting program shall be available to all Medicaid eligible families.

**Sponsors:**

Sen. Bradley	Sen. Birdsell	Sen. Cavanaugh
Sen. Chandley	Sen. Dietsch	Sen. Feltes
Sen. French	Sen. Fuller Clark	Sen. Gray
Sen. Hennessey	Sen. Kahn	Sen. Morgan
Sen. Rosenwald	Sen. Sherman	Sen. Ward
Sen. Watters	Rep. Danielson	Rep. Wallner
Rep. Berrien	Rep. Marsh	

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**Who supports the bill:** Alyssa Mahoney (Lakes Region Community Services – Family Resource Center), Hugh Bushew (Lakes Region Community Services – Family Resource Center), Aaron Briggs, Steve Chapman, MD (NH Pediatric Society), Rebecca Stern, Ashley Hamel, Schelley Rondeau (Central New Hampshire VNA), Maryann Evers (Waypoint), Melissa Shadden (Lakes Region Community Services – Family Resource Center), Rebecca Woitkowski (New Futures), Colby Kearl, Josia Schlogl, Gina Belanger, Rep. Manny Espitia (Hillsborough District 31), Gwendolyn Gladstone (NH Pediatric Society), Becky Whitley (NH Children’s Behavioral Health Collaborative), Senator Jon Morgan (District 23), Senator Tom Sherman (District 24), Senator Cindy Rosenwald (District 13), Senator Jeb Bradley (District 3), Patricia Tilley (DHHS), John Williams (DHHS), Director Moira O’Neil (Office of the Child Advocate), Senator James Gray (District 6), Senator Ruth Ward (District 8), Senator Regina Birdsell (District 19), Susan Covent, Rep. William Marsh (Carroll District 8), Ashley Womble, Rheanna Mandh, Darlene Gildersleeve, Doris Hampton, Senator Harold French (District 7), Deborah Jakabowski, Melissa Sullivan, Senator Jay Kahn (District 10), Sally Hatch, Maura Williams, Linda Mattlage, Melissa Hinebauch, Liz-Anne Platt, Corinne Dodge, Kathy Cahill, Dennis Jakabowski, Dellie Champagne (NH

Children's Behavioral Health Collaborative), Senator Martha Fuller Clark (District 21), Dr. Kristen Johnson, Dr. Robert Murray, Marcia Garber, Senator Jeanne Dietsch (District 9), Senator Shannon Chandley (District 11), Rena Woods

**Who opposes the bill:** None

**Who is neutral on the bill:** None

**Summary of testimony presented:**

*Senator Jeb Bradley, District 3*

- SB 274 will allow the home visitation program to be expanded to serve all mothers, rather than just mothers who are 21 and under and having their first child.
- The home visitation program is for Medicaid eligible women and children.
- Senator Bradley is introducing an amendment at the request of DHHS.
- Senator Fuller Clark asked Senator Bradley about the amendment. Senator Bradley stated that the amendment ensures that the legislation will cover mothers who are having a child beyond their first child.
- Senator Fuller Clark followed up by asking if the amendment also removes the 21-years old restriction. Senator Bradley indicated that that is his understanding.

*Shelley Rondeau, Central New Hampshire VNA (Provided written testimony)*

- Mrs. Rondeau is the pediatric nurse coordinator for Carroll and Belknap County.
- Mrs. Rondeau supports SB 274.
- Rural areas of the state will benefit from this legislation.

*Maryann Evers*

- Mrs. Evers supports SB 274.
- Mrs. Evers has run home visiting programs for many years.
- The home visiting program is extremely effective in ensuring healthy childhood development.

*Rebecca Woitkowski, New Futures (Provided written testimony)*

- New Futures supports this legislation

*Gina Belanger, Family Resource Center (Provided written testimony)*

- Mrs. Belanger supports this legislation.
- This legislation will ensure that families have access to the home visiting program. This is particularly important as the state works to combat the mental health and substance abuse crisis.
- Mrs. Belanger has been a home visiting nurse for 15 years in Gorham. She believes that SB 274 will improve the state's home visiting program.

*Patricia Tilley, Department of Health and Human Services*

- Mrs. Tilley supports SB 274.
- This legislation will allow federally qualified programs to serve the families that they need to serve.
- In the past, the department has estimated that the startup costs for the program could be anywhere from \$60,000 to \$500,000. This is with a 50-50 federal participation match.
- Mrs. Tilley believes that department could use a 90-10 match, which will lower the cost significantly.

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Date Hearing Report completed: February 14, 2019