



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Commissions to study PTSD in first responders and Grandfamilies in NH will continue their work

CONCORD, NH -- Senate bill (SB142) has been signed into law, re-establishing two important commissions - one to study incidents of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) among New Hampshire first responders and another to study grandfamilies.

Sen. Regina Birdsell (R-Hampstead) said, "Our police and fire department first responders are called to serious and life-threatening incidents every day that can be devastating to their mental health and sometimes lead to suicide. It is vital this commission continue so we can have a better understanding of their struggles and make recommendations that will help improve their situations. The commission will consider things like resiliency training, openly addressing PTSD issues and suicide line of duty issues, including the required PTSD training from new hires through retirement."

Sen. Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry) added, "Our Commission to Study Grandfamilies is important as well. New Hampshire is the first state in the country to have such a commission and it is credited with starting the national conversation on the need to support grandparents who are raising their grandchildren, many of whom have lost their parents due to the opioid crisis. We need to step up and support these amazing grandparents in the same way that they have stepped up to care for their grand kids. Commission members will be able to review data relating to these families, understand the barriers they encounter and create policies that will be helpful to them."

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