



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: March 4, 2021
CONTACT: Carole Alfano, 603.496.0412

Bill supporting mental health services for children passes Senate

CONCORD, NH -- The Senate voted 24-0 today on SB157, legislation that seeks to secure funding for child behavioral health services.

Sen. Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro), one of the bill's sponsors said, "Due to the Covid-19 pandemic and the negative impact it is having on adolescent's mental health, we need to ensure that funding appropriated in the prior budget which could not be utilized due to the pandemic is still available to implement SB-14 which is intended to assist children suffering with mental health issues. The Department of Health and Human Services is working incredibly hard to implement SB-14 which is a bipartisan priority to protect adolescents in New Hampshire."

Another of the bill's sponsors, Sen. Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry), said, "Passing SB157 means that prior funding promised to children's mental health services will not lapse. If we had not acted today, \$13.1 million appropriated to the Department of Health and Human Services for Child Welfare Behavioral Services was set to expire in June of this year. Now that money has been extended to June 30, 2022 and will be available for DHHS to support children in New Hampshire who desperately need our support. They are counting on us and so are their families."

###