

HCS HB 399 -- HEALTHCARE FOR DISABLED CHILDREN

SPONSOR: Basye

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Insurance Policy by a vote of 15 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Standing Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 7 to 0.

This bill prohibits any third-party payer for health care services from limiting coverage or denying reimbursement for treatment for physical, cognitive, emotional, mental, or developmental disabilities in specified situations.

This bill is similar to HB 1658 (2018) and HB 1011 (2017).

PROPOSERS: Supporters say that this bill will help provide additional services for many children with developmental disabilities. Currently, our children don't have enough access to therapeutically necessary services. Getting therapy early is important to these children and having access to the right kinds of therapy is so important to help them for the future. Schools provide some therapy but it is mostly educational.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Basye; Shawn D'abreu, Missouri Health Care For All; Sean Rivera; Beth Fizer; Laura Wakefield; Molly Myers; Christina Ingoglia; Nathan Ribaud; Andy Ribaud; Gertrud Motavalli; Missouri Psychological Association; Melanie Stinnett; Missouri Association of County Developmental Disabilities Services; Missouri Association of Rehabilitation Facilities; Shane Johnson; Michelle Ribaud; Robyn Schelp, Missouri Disability Empowerment; Taylor Moreland; and Jacob Schelp.

OPPOSERS: Those who oppose the bill say that this bill creates more mandates on insurance companies causing increased costs for consumers purchasing insurance products. We agree that the kids need these services and how important they are but maybe this should be done through the appropriation process.

Testifying against the bill was America's Health Insurance Plans and Missouri Insurance Coalition.