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Press Release



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Statement from Governor Hassan on \$1.1 Million Federal Grant to Support State's Efforts on Parity for Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse

CONCORD – Governor Maggie Hassan issued the following statement on the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) announcement this week of a [\\$1.1 million federal grant awarded to the State of New Hampshire](#) to support the State's efforts on parity for behavioral health and substance abuse services, essential health benefits and preventive health services:

"We must treat mental illness and substance use disorder as we would any other illness or chronic condition, and providing coverage parity for behavioral health and substance misuse services helps ensure that people struggling with these issues can access the treatment and care that they need. I commend the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services for awarding New Hampshire with this federal grant, which will help support our bipartisan work to ensure that providers comply with parity requirements for mental health and substance misuse treatment."

Acceptance of the federal grant from CMS is contingent upon approval by the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee and the Executive Council.

The Governor's first budget proposal in 2013 included behavioral health and substance misuse coverage parity for the traditional Medicaid population, which went into effect as part of the current bipartisan budget this July. The Governor also fought to establish and reauthorize the bipartisan New Hampshire Health Protection Program, which has provided substance misuse and behavioral health services to thousands of Granite Staters. In addition, the State of New Hampshire has been working to review state-regulated insurance companies' compliance with regulations that require parity for substance abuse and mental health treatment.

"In order to move New Hampshire forward, we cannot afford to leave anyone behind, including Granite Staters struggling with mental illness or substance use disorders," said state Senator Dan Feltes, member of the Department of Insurance's Behavioral Health and Addiction Services Advisory Committee and the prime sponsor of SB 502, a bipartisan bill relative to the enforcement of parity. "I'm very pleased with the announcement of this incredibly important grant that will enhance our bipartisan efforts to ensure the full promise of parity reaches every Granite Stater."

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