

Senate Health and Human Services Committee

Sophie Walsh 271-3469

HB 1515-FN, repealing the requirement that the department of health and human services' biennial budget request include funding for certain child care workforce programs.

Hearing Date: March 25, 2026

Time Opened: 10:17 a.m.

Time Closed: 10:22 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Rochefort, Birdsell and Long

Members of the Committee Absent: Senators Avard and Prentiss

Bill Analysis: This bill repeals the requirement that the department of health and human services include funding for certain child care workforce programs in its biennial budget request.

Sponsors:

Rep. Turcotte

Rep. D. Kelley

Rep. R. Brown

Rep. Perez

Rep. Andrus

Rep. Terry

Rep. Sirois

Rep. Belcher

Who supports the bill: 3 people signed in support of the bill. Full sign in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Sophie Walsh (sophie.walsh@gc.nh.gov).

Who opposes the bill: 68 people signed in opposition to the bill. Full sign in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Sophie Walsh (sophie.walsh@gc.nh.gov).

Who is neutral on the bill: 1 person signed in neutral to the bill. Full sign in sheets are available upon request by contacting the Legislative Aide, Sophie Walsh (sophie.walsh@gc.nh.gov).

Summary of testimony presented:

Representative Maureen Mooney, Hillsborough – District 12

- Representative Mooney explained that this bill deletes one line of language in HB 2 from 2025, which was carried over from HB 2 in 2023.
- If not deleted, this language could be interpreted to potentially leave the state on the hook for \$15 million in federal child care workforce funding, if that funding were to not come through the federal government.

- HB 1515-FN came out of the House by a vote of 170-153. However, this same language is included in HB 1566-FN, which passed by a vote of 25-0 out of committee and was passed by the House on a voice vote.
- If HB 1566-FN were to fail, this bill can ensure that the language be deleted.
- Senator Rochefort clarified that this bill's purpose can be achieved by passing HB 1566-FN, and Representative Mooney confirmed that it is included on line 14 of HB 1566-FN.

Brian Clark & Jotham Spreeman, Department of Health and Human Services

- Mr. Clark explained that HB 2 included language requiring the Department to request funding for child care workforce incentive programs in its budget proposal. This bill would repeal that requirement.

Jackie Cowell, Early Learning New Hampshire

- Ms. Cowell explained that the child care community is okay with making this deletion, as there is nothing requiring the legislature to approve of these budget requests.
- Ms. Cowell is speaking in opposition to this bill because it is duplicative of HB 1566-FN.