



The New Hampshire
House of Representatives

Office of the Speaker

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NH House Passes Historic Legislation Focused on Child Protection and Parental Rights:

Concord, NH: Speaker Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) released the following statement after the passage of SB 417, relative to out-of-home placements for children on Consent:

“Child protection, parental rights and transparency in public schools have been top priorities for the House under my administration. SB 417 prioritizes the overall well-being of children in out-of-home placement, working to keep them close to home while maintaining family relationships and respecting parental rights. This bill received bipartisan backing and recognized the importance of safeguarding some of our most vulnerable children.

There is much work to be done. As Speaker, I created a special investigative committee this term to take a deeper dive into some of our constituents’ concerns related to Family Court. One great success stemming from the special committee work is the passage of HB 185, relative to the determination of parental rights and responsibilities based on Shared Parenting, which the legislature has been working to pass for more than 30 years.

Shared Parenting levels the playing field for parents in family court and most closely reflects a child’s caregiving and living arrangements before separation or divorce. It preserves children’s relationships with both parents and both sides of their extended family and is linked to better outcomes for children of all ages, including improved emotional, behavioral, and physical health.

Our commitment to children and families will strengthen our foundation allowing us to remain the best state in which to live, work and raise a family. Today is proof that when we work together, we can find bipartisan solutions to priority issues without working against each other. This legislature will always support the best interests of children and their families.”

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