Request: The formation of a Foster Care Subcommittee, under the HHS Oversight Committee, to study and better address the specific needs of NH's foster care families and system.

Purpose: NH relies on and needs a strong foster care system to keep children healthy and safe.

Scope: This subcommittee will focus specifically on the study of New Hampshire foster care families and the foster care system. Whereas many foster parents do not currently feel as though they have a voice, and there has been acknowledgement that they sometimes get lost in the shuffle with everyone else, this subcommittee would provide the time, attention and focus on the unique challenges, concerns and needs of foster care families. It will help to improve and maintain a strong and successful system.

In scope:

- Determine stakeholders and how best to open the lines of communication with each stakeholder (subcommittee membership or otherwise)
- Determine how to best assess the current system - what is working, what needs improvement
- Determine how to best measure improvements
- Assess the strength/ success of the current system
- Set goals and timelines (to be reviewed with the HHS Oversight Committee)
- Determine solutions and implement (or monitor the implementation of) solutions
- Determine the process for ongoing monitoring (in the strength/ success of the system)

Out of scope:

- Individuals and families not entering or already in the foster care system
- Issues that do not impact foster care families or the system in some way
- Out of state foster care families, with no interest in the state of NH

Other considerations:

- Membership to be determined
- Subcommittee's authority to be clarified
- Meeting frequency to be determined
- Frequency and process of reporting back to the HHS Oversight Committee to be determined
- Sunset date, if appropriate, to be determined