

**MINUTES OF THE SENATE HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
STANDING COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 2009
HOUSE BUILDING ROOM 30 STATE CAPITOL COMPLEX**

Members Present: Sen. D. Chris Buttars, Chair
Sen. Gregory S. Bell
Sen. Allen M. Christensen
Sen. David P. Hinkins
Sen. Patricia W. Jones
Sen. Luz Robles

Staff Present: Mark D. Andrews, Policy Analyst
Cami Deavila, Committee Secretary

Public Speakers Present: Leeann Whiffen, Citizen
Clay Whiffen, Citizen
Dr. Paul Carbone, Pediatrician, University of Utah
Lorri Unumb, Policy Analyst, Autism Speaks
Fraser Bullock, Managing Director, Sorenson Capital
Andrew King, Citizen
Tom Clay, Citizen
Kelly Atkinson, Utah Health Insurance Association
Jim Olsen, Utah Food Industry Association and Utah Retail
Merchants Association
Jeff Hartley, America's Health Insurance Plans

A list of visitors and a copy of handouts are filed with the committee minutes.

Sen. Buttars called the meeting to order at 8:10 a.m.

1. SB0043, Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders-Clay's Law (*H. Stephenson*)

MOTION: Sen. Jones moved to amend S.B. 43, Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders-Clay's Law, as follows:

1. *Page 1, Lines 15 through 16:*

15 ▶ requires that {~~an accident or health insurance policy that provides a health~~
~~insurance~~
16 ~~benefit~~} a health benefit plan shall provide coverage for treatment of autism
spectrum disorders;

2. *Page 3, Line 59:*

59 (2) ~~{An accident or health insurance policy that provides a health insurance~~
 ~~benefit}~~ A health benefit plan shall

3. Page 3, Lines 65 through 71:

65 (4) Subject to Subsection (5), the rules described in Subsection (3) shall
 ~~establish~~
66 ~~durational limits, amount limits, deductibles, and coinsurance for the treatment of~~
 ~~autism~~
67 ~~spectrum disorders that are similar to, or identical to, the coverage provided for other~~
 ~~illnesses~~
68 ~~or diseases}~~ provide that all cost sharing provisions for the coverage described in
 Subsection (2), including dollar limits, deductibles, and coinsurance, are not less
 favorable to the insured than the cost sharing provisions that apply to physical illness
 generally .
69 (5) Subject to Subsection (6), ~~{an accident or health insurance policy that~~
 ~~provides a~~
70 ~~health insurance benefit}~~ a health benefit plan shall provide coverage for the
 provision of early intensive behavior
71 therapy for a person with an autism spectrum disorder of at least:

The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Robles absent for the vote.

Sen. Stephenson introduced the bill.

Ms. Whiffen, Mr. Whiffen, Dr. Carbone, Ms. Unumb, Mr. Bullock, Ms. Sedim, and Mr. King spoke for the bill. Mr. Clay, Mr. Atkinson, Mr. Olsen and Mr. Hartley spoke against the bill.

MOTION: Sen. Bell moved to continue discussion on S.B. 43, Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders-Clay's Law, at the next scheduled meeting.

The motion failed with Sens. Bell and Hinkins voting aye and Sens. Buttars, Christensen, Jones, and Robles voting nay.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to table S.B. 43, Insurance Coverage for Autism Spectrum Disorders-Clay's Law.

The motion failed with Sen. Christensen voting aye.

MOTION: Sen. Christensen moved to pass S.B. 43, Insurance Coverage for Autism

Spectrum Disorders-Clay's Law, out of committee with a favorable recommendation.

The motion passed with Sen. Christensen voting nay.

Sen. Buttars adjourned the meeting at 9:37 a.m.

Minutes were reported by Cami Deavila, Secretary.

D. Chris Buttars, Committee Chair