

Memorandum

To: Sean Kealy
From: Celeste Davis
Re: Acts 2010 Chapter 313 An Act Relative to Postpartum Depression
Date: November 2, 2010

Summary of Bill:

Study:

In 2007, when possible legislation to address postpartum depression awareness was just an idea, Rep. Story asked a Boston University Law legislation clinic student to write a report on the issue. The report, "Raising Awareness of Postpartum Depression through Patient Education and Postnatal Screening," analyzes legislative remedies for screening for and improving postpartum depression care.

Finding the report was not very hard. I visited Rep. Story's office and asked for any materials they had on the bill. She keeps one hard copy of the report on file in her office, so the 50-page document had to be photocopied on site and returned immediately.

The study contains a through background of post partum depression and sets a foundation for possible legislation.

Westlaw:

Using Westlaw, I was able to locate the final bill text, original version and journal entries. The original version of the bill was H3897 before it's final bill number H4859.

State Legislature Website:

Under the state house website, I was able to find the bill history when it was still H3897.

State House News Service:

The Postpartum bill was not mentioned much in the State House News Service. I checked the different archive sections of the website and located about five links.

– SHNS Archives:

1. ADVANCES - WEEK OF AUG. 15, 2010 – reporting bill on the governor's desk
2. STATE CAPITOL BRIEFS - MORNING EDITION - MONDAY, MAY 10, 2010 – Postpartum bill clears financial services panel
3. WEEKLY ROUNDUP: ELEVATED TEMPERATURES, July 9, 2010: Recap and analysis of the week in state government – mention bill could pass by the end of session

– PR Archives:

1. July 30, 2010: POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION BILL PASSES HOUSE (7-30-10)
2. August 20, 2010: POSTPARTUM DEPRESSION BILL BECOMES LAW (8-20-10)

Internet Search:

A simple Google search on “postpartum depression legislation Massachusetts” produced many blog posts and news articles regarding the bill. Helpful documents include:

Massachusetts General Hospital (MGH) Institute of Health:

- Bill Summary
- Testimony of Associate Professor Janice Goodman
- Press release

Health Care for All:

- February 1, 2010 news article covering State House press event and hearing

Financial Services Committee:

The bill was sent to the Financial Services Committee for review and hearings. When I visited the Committee, they quickly handed over all written testimony given during the hearing.