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MEMORANDUM

To: Joint Fiscal Office

From: Representative Bill Lippert, Chair, House Committee on Health Care

Date: March 17, 2016

Subject: JFO analysis; Preparation for 2017 Legislative Session

The House Committee on Health Care has bills on its wall relating to Medicaid and insurance coverage for a variety of health care services. Of particular interest to the Committee on Health Care are the possibility of providing Medicaid coverage for doula services and requiring health insurance coverage for hearing aids. In lieu of inserting language into the budget bill, the Committee on Health Care requests that Joint Fiscal Office estimate the cost of mandating coverage for these services and present the information the form of a fiscal note.

The Committee on Health Care proposes the following:

Sec. X. COVERAGE FOR DOULA SERVICES AND HEARING AIDS

(a) The Joint Fiscal Office, in consultation with interested stakeholders, shall examine the costs to the State of Vermont associated with:

(1) providing Medicaid coverage for doula services during labor and birth and for the prenatal and postpartum periods; and

(2) requiring health insurers to provide coverage for hearing aids and related services.

(b) On or before December 15, 2016 the Joint Fiscal Office shall provide to the House Committee on Health Care its calculation of the costs to the State associated with providing Medicaid coverage for doula services and requiring health insurance coverage for hearing aids.