

April 4, 2016



**March of Dimes Foundation**

**NE Region**

25 Lowell Street, Suite 304

Manchester, NH 03101

Telephone (603)573-9551

Dear Members of the Senate Appropriations Committee:

The mission of the March of Dimes is to improve the health of women of childbearing age, infants and children by preventing birth defects, premature birth and infant mortality. One of the most important ways we can do this is by ensuring that women are healthy before they become pregnant. Healthy women are much more likely to have healthy babies.

The March of Dimes is in support of sections E306.4 and section E.312 B of H.875 which state:

Sec. E.306.4 33 V.S.A. § 1811(l)

*(l) To the extent permitted under federal law, a registered carrier shall allow for the enrollment of a pregnant individual, and of any individual who is eligible for coverage under the terms of the health benefit plan because of a relationship to the pregnant individual, at any time after the commencement of the pregnancy. Coverage shall be effective as of the first of the month following the individual's selection of a health benefit plan.*

*Sec. E.312 Health – public health*

*(b) The funding for tobacco cessation and prevention activities in fiscal year 2017 shall include funding for tobacco cessation programs that serve pregnant women.*

Access and coverage of prenatal care, and tobacco cessation programs for pregnant women is very important to ensure healthy pregnancies, the prevention of premature birth, and infant mortality in Vermont.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Abigail Rogers".

Abigail Rogers  
Director of Advocacy and Government Affairs  
The March of Dimes  
New England Chapter  
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