



SPONSOR: Sen. Gay & Rep. Heffernan  
Sens. Ennis, Hansen, Hocker, Lockman, Sturgeon; Reps.  
Baumbach, Briggs King, S. Moore, K. Williams

DELAWARE STATE SENATE  
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 50

DIRECTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES TO PRODUCE AN ANNUAL REPORT  
ON THE STATUS OF DELAWARE'S HOME VISITING PROGRAMS.

1 WHEREAS, decades of program evaluation on home visiting programs have demonstrated improved outcomes in  
2 maternal and child health, child development, parenting, school performance, and overall familial health; and

3 WHEREAS, home visiting has been shown to reduce child maltreatment, juvenile delinquency, family violence,  
4 and future criminal behavior, providing a strong return on investment both financially and for the greater community; and

5 WHEREAS, Delaware currently has four active home visiting programs which are delivered in partnership with  
6 community-based organizations and school districts; and

7 WHEREAS, Early Head Start programs include home visits designed to nurture healthy attachments between  
8 parent (or caregiver) and child and encompass the full range of a family's needs through a child's third birthday; and

9 WHEREAS, Healthy Families America is a home visiting program offered at no cost to those who qualify which  
10 recognizes and develops a family's strengths and provides guidance, information, and resources to address any challenges,  
11 prenatally through a child's third birthday; and

12 WHEREAS, Nurse Family Partnership allows trained nurses to regularly visit first-time expecting mothers from  
13 early pregnancy through the child's second birthday to provide trusted advice and instill confidence in a mother's ability to  
14 appropriately care for her child; and

15 WHEREAS, Parents as Teachers provides home visits to support mothers with increased knowledge from  
16 pregnancy through a child's kindergarten years; and

17 WHEREAS, evidence-based home visiting is one of the most impactful interventions for pregnant women, young  
18 children, and their families.

19 NOW THEREFORE:

20 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151<sup>st</sup> General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of  
21 Representatives concurring therein, that the Department of Health and Social Services is directed to produce an annual  
22 report to the Governor, the Delaware State Senate, the Delaware State House of Representatives, the General Assembly  
23 Kids' Caucus, and the Delaware Early Childhood Council by December 1 of each year.

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health and Social Services will create this report in  
25 consultation with the Department of Education and the Home Visiting Community Advisory Board.

26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report is to include a summary of all Evidence-Based Home Visiting  
27 programs including a summary of Delaware Evidence-Based Home Visiting Models and their operating agencies and  
28 funding streams, fidelity adherence to the models and methods of delivery, geographic reach of each program, demographic  
29 and utilization data for families served, demographics of the workforce, and an analysis of performance measures, as  
30 mutually agreed upon.

31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the report must include a section addressing specific challenges to delivery of  
32 services which is to be based on needs assessments, data submission, and staff and family surveys.

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that recommendations for improvement should include issues around financing  
34 the programs, recruitment and retention of staff and families, strategies to support equitable access and capacity to meet  
35 community need, current research on best practices in delivery of services, assessment of potential resources for families to  
36 access continued services as a child ages, additional performance outcome and data collection strategies, and family  
37 engagement techniques.

#### SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution establishes the purpose and protocol for the creation of an annual report on home visiting programs in Delaware. The report is to be prepared by the Department of Health and Social Services in consultation with the Department of Education and the Delaware Home Visiting Community Advisory Board for review by the Governor, the Delaware State Senate, the Delaware State House of Representatives, the Delaware Kids' Caucus, and the Delaware Early Childhood Council no later than December 1 of each year, and is to include a summary of current practices and challenges, as well as program recommendations.

Author: Senator Gay