

REPORT OF
IMPLEMENTATION OF L. 2005 S.B. 500
AS IT RELATES TO THE FIRST STEPS PROGRAM –Program Year 2008



SUBMITTED BY:
MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF INSURANCE,
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
& PROFESSIONAL REGISTRATION

January 30, 2009

During the 2005 legislative session, Missouri legislators passed Senate Bill 500. A significant part of the bill requires licensed health insurers and health maintenance organizations (HMOs) to include coverage in their benefit packages for the services provided under the First Steps Program.

The First Steps Program operates through the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE). It is an early intervention program funded with state and federal moneys that provides a variety of services, including therapy services (physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech/language therapy, assistive technology, etc.) for children with developmental delays and other qualifying medical problems between the ages of birth and three years. The federal portion of the First Steps Program is authorized under Part C of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). The program provides services to over 7,000 of Missouri's children and their families each year.

SB 500 (2005) requires the Missouri Department of Insurance, Financial Institutions and Professional Registration (DIFP) to report annually to the Missouri General Assembly by January 30 on:

1. the number of children receiving private insurance coverage for First Steps services, excluding children whose insurers elect a form of bulk payment; and
2. the total amount paid on behalf of such children under private insurance coverage.

See section 376.1218.9, RSMo (Supp. 2007).

DIFP collects this data from DESE. Data reported by DESE for 2008 are as follows:

Number of children receiving private insurance coverage under 376.1218, excluding those whose private insurer elects a form of bulk payment	665
Total amount paid on behalf of such children	\$257,773