

STATEMENT

Stefany Shaheen's entire career was created because of her mother's political connections. After having only ever worked as a junior level assistant, Stefany received an executive level job, a decision the Union Leader has questioned repeatedly.

Verification

While Her Mother Was Governor, Shaheen Was A Member Of The Governor's Commission On Child Care And Early Childhood Education

In 2000, Shaheen Was A Member Of The Governor's Commission On Child Care And Early Childhood Education. "Stefany Shaheen, a member of the Governor's Commission on Child Care and Early Childhood Education (and Gov. Jeanne Shaheen's daughter), said a recent survey found New Hampshire businesses lose \$24 million annually because of their employees child care-related problems. The same survey a significant percentage of part-time workers left full-time schedules because of child care concerns." (Tom Fahley, "Businesses join with non-profits to mull solution to NH labor shortage," The Union Leader, 6/7/00)

The Commission Was Tasked With Working With The Business Community To Develop Recommendations For Improving Child Care. "Gov. Jeanne Shaheen named the Business Commission on Child Care and Early Childhood Education to develop recommendations for improving child care. Shaheen wants the commission to confer with the business community over finding ways to provide high-quality, affordable child care." ("Freeze on Programs May Affect Poor Children. Day Care Slots Needed, Commission Told," The Union Leader, 5/27/98)

The Commission Was Established By Governor Shaheen In 1998. "Gov. Jeanne Shaheen has worked the last three years to improve quality, affordable child care. In April 1998, she established the Business Commission on Child Care and Early Childhood Education. The commission worked with childcare providers and convened forums with providers, parents and employers. Economic impact was foremost." ("Couple faces the childcare challenge," [Seacoast Online](#), 1/31/11)

The Commission Included 16 Business Leaders Who Worked For Eight Months To Come Up With Recommendations. "A portion of the Providian donation was used to establish the Governor's Business Commission on Child Care and Early Education. Gov. Shaheen established the commission in April 1998 to harness the resources and expertise of NH's business community to improve child care in the state. A group of 16 business leaders led by co-chairs Donna Lencki, former CEO of Healthsource NH Inc., and Kathy Bogle Shields, VP of community development for Providian Financial Corporation, worked for eight months to identify issues and make recommendations. The commission concluded that NH businesses could help address the child care issue in two ways. 'First, employers can offer family-friendly work policies that provide greater flexibility to working parents,' the commission wrote in its report. 'Second, business leaders can act as community resources to help local child care providers build their own capacity to deliver quality, affordable care.'" (Wendy Ducharme, "Bottleneck: Caught between the Baby and the Briefcase," Business NH Magazine, 8/1/00)

The Commission Was Funded By A Donation From Providian Financial Corporation, A Credit Card Company With Close Ties To Governor Shaheen

The Commission Was Funded By A Portion Of A \$5 Million Donation From Providian Financial Corporation. "PC Connection has proposed a pilot program in Merrimack to address ways in which the community might best meet the needs of the child care industry. Providian Financial Corporation dedicated \$5 million to improving child care in NH. GOVERNOR'S COMMISSION A portion of the Providian donation was used to establish the Governor's Business Commission on Child Care and Early Education. Gov. Shaheen established the commission in April 1998 to harness the resources and expertise of NH's business community to improve child care in the state. A group of 16 business leaders led by co-chairs Donna Lencki, former CEO of Healthsource NH Inc., and Kathy Bogle Shields, VP of community development for Providian Financial Corporation,

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Providian Was A Credit Card Company With Close Ties To Governor Jeanne Shaheen.

“One of the nation's largest and most troubled credit card issuers has close ties to the political leadership of New Hampshire, the state it calls home. The link between Providian Financial Corp. and Gov. Jeanne Shaheen has been especially strong. The governor is a key backer of the company's investments in child care and a political beneficiary of the company's public and campaign-related giving.” (John DiStaso, “Providian's friendly ties to NH leaders. Shaheen daughter has top post,” The Union Leader, 4/14/02)

Providian And Their CEO Were Donors To Shaheen’s Gubernatorial Campaign.

“Providian CEO Shallesh Mehta liquidated \$ 8.5 million of his own stock in two sales in November 2000 and the summer of 2001, according to Fortune. In November 2001, when Providian announced the first of its big losses, Mehta announced his resignation. Mehta has been a contributor to Shaheen's campaigns for governor. As a political player, Providian has been bipartisan. Its political action committee contributed \$ 10,000 to the four members of the state's all-Republican congressional delegation over the past four years. Shaheen received \$ 5,000 from the Providian PAC in 1998. California-based Providian executives contributed \$ 18,450 to her 1998 and 2000 campaign committees, and \$ 2,000 more to her between-elections account, Friends of Jeanne Shaheen. Of that \$ 20,450, Mehta contributed \$ 7,000. Included in the total is \$ 17,500 Shaheen received from a handful of top Providian executives at an August 2000 California reception.” (John DiStaso, “Providian's friendly ties to NH leaders. Shaheen daughter has top post,” The Union Leader, 4/14/02)

In 2000, Shaheen Became Interim Director Of Business Partners For Child Care And Early Childhood Education, A Permanent Entity Formed To Enact The Recommendations Of The Commission

Shaheen Was Interim Director Of The Business Partners For Child Care And Early Childhood Education, A Permanent Entity Tasked With Enacting The Commission’s Recommendations. “The Business Partners for Child Care and Early Childhood Education was formed in February 2000 as a permanent entity that will enact the recommendations of the commission. According to Stefany Shaheen, interim director of the new organization, initial efforts will focus on two areas: recognition programs to encourage companies to help their own employees address child care issues and a ‘community ambassador’ program to encourage partnerships between businesses and child care providers.” (Wendy Ducharme, “Bottleneck: Caught between the Baby and the Briefcase,” Business NH Magazine, 8/1/00)

The Business Partners Was “Substantially Funded” By Providian Financial, An Ally Of And Donor To Governor Jeanne Shaheen

The Business Group Promoting Better Child Care Was “Substantially Funded” By Providian Grants. “The governor's eldest daughter, Stefany Shaheen, is employed as the top staffer of a business group promoting better child care substantially funded by Providian grants.” (John DiStaso, “Providian's friendly ties to NH leaders. Shaheen daughter has top post,” The Union Leader, 4/14/02)

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The Union Leader Asked How Many Other People Applied For The Executive Director Job At The Business Council But Did Not Receive A Response

The Union Leader Attempted To Ask Officials How Many People Applied For The Post Of Executive Director At The Governors Business Council But Did Not Receive A Response. “Question: How many people applied for the post of executive director at the Governor's Business Partners for Early Learning -- a post won by Stefany Shaheen? The big bad Union Leader tried to ask group officials the tongue-in-cheek question, but (surprise!) they wouldn't return our calls.” (John DiStaso, “(GRANITE STATUS) Nothing injudicious as old friends meet to gab,” The Union Leader, 5/10/01)

The Shaheens Claimed Stefany Was Hired Because Of Her Educational Background, Research Abilities, And Role As A Mother Though The Union Leader Pointed Out That 27-Year-Old Stefany Had No Executive Experience

Shaheen And Governor Shaheen Said Stefany Was Hired Because Of Her Educational Background, Research Abilities, And Her Role As A Mother. “Gov. Jeanne Shaheen's eldest daughter says she was hired to run a child care advocacy group heavily funded by Providian Financial Corp. because of her educational background, research abilities and her role as a mother. Her mother, who sits on the group's board of directors, agrees. Stefany Shaheen, 27, refused to disclose what she is paid as executive director of New Hampshire Business Partners for Early Learning.” (John DiStaso, “Providian's friendly ties to NH leaders. Shaheen daughter has top post,” The Union Leader, 4/14/02)

Shaheen Worked In Providian's Local Counsel's Office And Worked On The Commission's Initial Study. “Providian's local counsel, Christopher Gallagher, says Providian and Gov. Shaheen simply had a ‘convergence of interest’ in child care. ... A commission set up by the governor called for a new organization to have state business leaders talk to peers about the benefits of supporting child care centers. It found a need to shore up pay and benefits for child care workers to reduce turnover and provide a more stable atmosphere for children, thus improving early learning. That plan was based on a study by economist Lisa Shapiro of the Gallagher firm, who now is on the group's board. ... Stefany Shaheen, who worked for Gallagher's firm, had served as Shapiro's research assistant on the study. When the organization was formed, the research assistant became the executive director.” (John DiStaso, “Providian's friendly ties to NH leaders. Shaheen daughter has top post,” The Union Leader, 4/14/02)

Governor Jeanne Shaheen Criticized The “Attack” On Stefany Saying She Did Not Use Her Political Clout To Help Stefany Get A Job. “Shaheen contacted the Concord Monitor to refute the charges she used her political clout to get her daughter a job with the NH Business Partner for Early Learning, which hired 27-year-old Stefany Shaheen in '00. Said Gov. Shaheen: ‘I have been disappointed at the attack on my daughter, who I think is very capable and very competent. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa, magna cum laude from Fairfield (University, in Connecticut). She doesn't need me or Providian to get her a job.’” (“NEW HAMPSHIRE: SHAHEEN DENIES Union Leader CHARGES,” The Hotline, 4/25/02)

The Union Leader Editorial Board: “The Group Hired Shaheen's 27-Year-Old Daughter, Stefany Shaheen, As Its Executive Director Though She Had No Executive Experience And Had Worked Previously As An Administrative Assistant And Research Assistant.” (“EDITORIAL: Shaheen vs. consumers; A tale of corruption,” The Union Leader, 9/29/08)

In 2002, Shaheen Refused To Disclose What She Was Paid To Lead The Group And Said She Was Working Under A Consulting Agreement Until The Group Received Tax Exempt Status

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Shaheen Said She Was Working For Business Partners Under A Consulting Agreement Until The Group Received Tax Exempt Status. “She said she is working for Business Partners under a consulting contract until tax-exempt status is granted. At that time, additional financial information must become public. Shaheen said that until then, she did ‘not feel comfortable’ disclosing her income.” (John DiStaso, “Providian's friendly ties to NH leaders. Shaheen daughter has top post,” The Union Leader, 4/14/02)

Shaheen Claimed The Group’s First Initiative Was To Improve Health Insurance Availability For Childcare Professionals

Shaheen Claimed The Group’s First Initiative Was To Improve Health Insurance Availability For Childcare Professionals. “Shaheen said the Business Partners' first initiative is to improve health insurance availability for childcare professionals. ‘In a competitive job market, it's tough for day-care providers to compete when they can't afford to offer more money and benefits,’ Shaheen said.” (“Couple faces the childcare challenge,” [Seacoast Online](#), 1/31/11)

An In-Home Childcare Provider Said He Contacted Shaheen About Challenges He Was Facing But Did Not Hear Back

An In-Home Childcare Provider Said He Contacted Shaheen About Challenges He Was Facing But Did Not Hear Back. “Rose and Jesse Stufflebeam have a charming house in Pannaway Manor, where they run a licensed six-child family-care home on a tree-shaded Colonial Drive. ... The Stufflebeams face many typical challenges of childcare providers big and small, nonprofit and for profit. ... Jesse e-mailed the Business Partners because the Stufflebeams' challenges mirrored those the Partners group hopes to remedy. ‘I got a response a couple days later asking for my name and address and I haven't heard from them since,’ Jesse said. ‘I e-mailed Gov. Shaheen. I called and talked to someone in the governor's office, and I was referred to the director of the program, Stefany Shaheen.’ Jesse said he placed calls to the governor's daughter on June 19, 21, 26 and 28. ‘I left my name and cell phone number, but I never heard anything,’ he said.” (“Couple faces the childcare challenge,” [Seacoast Online](#), 1/31/11)

Shaheen Said The Man’s Calls And Emails Were Noted And Passed On To An AmeriCorps*VISTA Volunteer Working With The Organization. “Stefany Shaheen, of the New Hampshire Business Partners for Early Learning, said there is strong interest in the organization's work. She said Jesse's e-mails and calls were noted and his name and situation were forwarded to an AmeriCorps*VISTA volunteer working with the Business Partners. ‘The No. — priority for our organization is to work in collaboration with other organizations that are trying to address these challenges,’ she said. ‘We want to work with the experts in the industry and work with providers to come up with innovative strategies.’” (“Couple faces the childcare challenge,” [Seacoast Online](#), 1/31/11)