



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 17, 2020

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 1246

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 17th, 2020, I have vetoed House Bill 1246.

Although this bill is well intended, it is redundant. It aims to create new programs and spend CARES Act funds in areas where the state has already identified concerns and designed programs and devoted significantly more resources. While this legislation would be appropriate in non-emergency situations, instances like COVID-19 are precisely why the legislature created RSA 4:45 and 21-P:43, so that the flow of resources in an emergency would not be hampered by moving a bill through the legislature.

This bill allocates \$25 million in CARES Act money to create a fund designed to assist long term care facilities. However, my administration has already acted to allocate \$100 million to the Healthcare System Relief Fund and earmarked \$30 million specifically for long term care providers. Additionally, we created the Long Term Care Stabilization Program to stabilize and incentivize our front line health care workforce with weekly stipends.

This bill would also appropriate \$10 million in CARES Act funds for child care. However, we have already used CARES Act funds created the NH Child Care Recovery and Stabilization Program and allocated \$25 million to provide emergency financial support to Child Care Programs.

Further, this bill has a number of provisions that are replicated in other pieces of pending legislation or that have already become law.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 1246.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clith T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor