



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 17, 2020

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 19

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 17th, 2020, I have vetoed Senate Bill 19, relative to the privacy of certain information concerning public employees.

This bill would prohibit public employees' home addresses, personal email addresses, and home or mobile telephone numbers from being disclosed to the public. Unfortunately, the bill creates a carve out for employee labor organizations. While I fully support providing public employees with more control and privacy over their personal information, this bill would effectively give one class of private organizations - labor unions - exclusive access to that information.

Proponents of this bill contend this legislation is necessary because union members have been contacted by outside groups and asked to stop paying dues in the wake of the *Janus v. American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)* decision. However, the bill's supporters may forget that, while some public employees may not want to be contacted by outside groups, others may not want to be contacted by their employee labor organization. If the goal of this legislation was to provide more privacy to public employees, it should have provided them the option to disallow employee labor organizations to access their personal information.

The Minority committee amendment (2019-2830h) would have prohibited outside groups from gaining access to employees' personal information as well as allowed public employees to consent to disclosing their information to employee labor organizations. In other words, the minority's amendment would have provided far more control and privacy to public employees. Sadly, because the Minority amendment failed to be adopted during the legislative process, this bill does not provide true privacy to public employees.

Finally, in 2018, 81% of New Hampshire voters supported adding a provision to New Hampshire's Constitution that reads, "An individual's right to live free from governmental intrusion in private or personal information is natural, essential, and inherent." Having an employer deliver an employee's personal information to a private organization would clearly not comport with the spirit of this provision.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 19.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor