



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

August 7, 2020

**Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 1494**

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, I have vetoed House Bill 1494.

While there are parts of this bill I support, there are provisions that I am unable to support because of negative policy and financial impacts on the state and municipalities.

Section six of this bill would allow employee labor organizations to be certified by the New Hampshire Public Employee Labor Relations Board (PLRB) if they receive a written majority authorization from their potential membership, bypassing the current secret ballot election process. The current election process helps safeguard worker privacy and freedom of choice by ensuring the employees' secret ballots are not traced back to them. It is particularly odd that the legislature has now sent several bills that would undercut public employee privacy despite the New Hampshire citizens resounding passage of a constitutional amendment in 2018 that protects privacy rights for our citizens.

Additionally, New Hampshire is potentially facing an unprecedented budget situation in the wake of the global pandemic. The State, counties and municipalities are going to have to make difficult decisions with the resources available to them. This bill would add significant costs making it even more difficult for the State, counties and municipalities to prioritize resources. Adding new costs at this time as a result of this legislation would only deepen the hole from which we must dig out.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 1494.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor