



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

September 6, 2019

**Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 611**

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, I have vetoed House Bill 611, allowing voters to vote by absentee ballot.

Part 1, Article 11 of the New Hampshire Constitution makes clear that absentee voting shall be permitted in cases of absence or physical disability. It does not allow for no excuse absentee voting.

New Hampshire has an excellent track record when it comes to voting. Our proud tradition of voter participation includes going to the local polling place on election day and Granite Staters do it as well as anyone. This bill would erode an aspect of our unique process that has New Hampshire leading the way when it comes to civic engagement. Further, this bill would add significant logistical difficulties for municipalities and the Secretary of State, despite our already high voter participation.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 611.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor