



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

July 10, 2019

**Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 156**

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 10th, 2019, I have vetoed Senate Bill 156, relative to political contributions made by limited liability companies.

This bill would require only those limited liability companies (LLC) that chose to engage in First Amendment protected political speech to disclose the identity, address, and individuals' shares of ownership of the LLC. This compelled disclosure would chill LLCs and their members from exercising their first amendment rights. Courts have found such chilling of political speech to be unconstitutional. Further, as the first in the nation primary state, we should not be stifling participation in civic discourse.

Senate Bill 156 would also have a detrimental effect on business development in New Hampshire. The bill would discourage the formation or maintenance of an LLC in New Hampshire because it would force the LLC to choose between maintaining the confidentiality of its members and their percentage of ownership and exercising the LLC's right to make political speech.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 156.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor