



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

July 10, 2020

**Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 712**

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 10, 2020, I have vetoed House Bill 712.

For the second time in as many years, the Democrats have put this legislation, which would establish a state income tax, on my desk. Proponents have dug deep into their thesauruses to engage in linguistic gymnastics to characterize the income tax contained in this program as something other than what everyone clearly recognizes it to be. Whether one chooses to characterize it as a "premium on wages" or a "payroll deduction," the reality remains that if it looks like an income tax, functions like an income tax, and takes more money out of the paychecks of hard working taxpayers like an income tax, then it is an income tax.

Paid family medical leave is important to me, which is why I have presented multiple plans to the Legislature. Unlike the Democrats legislation, my bills were:

- Voluntary, affordable, sustainable, and income tax free.
- Supported and endorsed by the NH Insurance Department and the NH Department of Employment Security.
- Amended to address concerns for a constructive resolution.

Sadly, Democratic leadership chose not to collaborate on a solution. When given a choice between paid family medical leave and an income tax, Democrats chose the income tax.

Rather than deliver an important opportunity for New Hampshire residents, the legislature has insisted on trying to once again to pass more taxes onto the citizens of our state. Neither I nor the people of New Hampshire will ever support an Income Tax.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 712.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor