



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 13, 2021

Governor's Veto Message Regarding Senate Bill 38

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 13th, 2021, I have vetoed Senate Bill 38, relative to the organization of alternative treatment centers.

I have been supportive of New Hampshire's therapeutic cannabis program and I recognize the difficulties some patients face regarding the price of medical marijuana. There is a tried and true method for the government to make a positive impact on pricing in almost any market: Get out of the way. This is done through reducing regulations, allowing for greater competition, addressing constraints on supply and demand, etc. Throughout my time as Governor, New Hampshire has greatly increased the number of patients and qualifying conditions, removed regulatory hurdles within the therapeutic cannabis program and expanded the number of ATC locations. However, Senate Bill 38 could lead to a circumstance with long-term repercussions on New Hampshire's cannabis policies.

This bill would create pre-ordained for-profit monopolies in New Hampshire's medical marijuana marketplace, with no opportunity for other entities to compete or otherwise enter into the marketplace. In a circumstance where recreational marijuana became legal in New Hampshire, these monopolies would be well situated to dominate the marketplace. I share the concerns of Republicans on the House Commerce Committee who noted that the conversion that Alternative Treatment Centers are seeking would give these entities an even more significant advantage over their competitors if recreational marijuana is legalized. The State of New Hampshire should not guarantee profit-making monopolies to only three companies statewide.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed Senate Bill 38.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor