



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

Congresswoman Annie Kuster  
320 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

April 4, 2020

Dear Congresswoman Kuster,

Thank you for your April 1, 2020 letter regarding your concerns about individuals who face substance use disorders during our COVID-19 pandemic. I share your goal to prioritize this population as we face the challenges ahead.

Through our collective efforts to secure federal funding to address the opioid epidemic, last year we established the Doorway program, with nine centers across the state providing an access point for screenings, assessments, care coordination and supports to individuals with opioid use disorder. The Doorways foothold in their regions, along with vital State Opioid Response-funded treatment and recovery programs, will serve us well in this current crisis.

Since the inception of the COVID-19 situation, I have taken action to ensure that health service providers are able to continue to meet the needs of our communities. As you noted, the stay at home order helps flatten the curve. Other measures, such as an emergency order on telemedicine, gives providers the tools they need to remain connected to individuals in treatment and recovery. My team, including the Department of Health & Human Services Divisions of Medicaid Services and Behavioral Health, are working tirelessly on opportunities afforded through the Centers of Medicaid & Medicare and our three Medicaid Managed Care Organizations to get much-needed resources to those on the front lines of substance use treatment. The guidance that is being issued at the state and federal level is updated to address the changing environment as we learn more about the virus and its impact on individuals, families and communities.

My administration remains committed to using state and federal dollars to address a number of resource needs, including access to loans and grants, unemployment benefits and the funding specifically allocated to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for behavioral health services.

I appreciate the steps you have taken and know that in continuing to work together, we can get through the difficult weeks and months ahead.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor