



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

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

April 6, 2020

Councilor Michael J. Cryans, District 1  
Councilor Andru Volinsky, District 2  
Councilor Russell E. Prescott, District 3  
Councilor Theodore L. Gatsas, District 4  
Councilor Debora B. Pignatelli, District 5

**VIA Electronic Mail**

Dear Councilors,

As the State continues to confront the COVID-19 pandemic, we know that we are going to be relying on the leadership of our State agencies to help address critical issues and continue to ensure State agencies are able to serve the needs of our citizens. At this time, the most critical thing we can do is make sure our State agencies have fully staffed leadership teams in place so all hands can be on deck in helping managing through this pandemic.

The State already has made a number of emergency changes regarding licensure and certifications, and we must make sure the Office of Professional Licensure and Certification ("OPLC") is fully staffed in its leadership team in order to guarantee the continued success of the agency and the State. It is with this in mind that I am asking that the Council confirm Eddie Edwards to serve as Executive Director of OPLC. Confirming Mr. Edwards' nomination is a critical step we can take to provide OPLC with the additional leadership and management skills needed to help get us through this challenging period. This will also allow the current Interim Executive Director, Lindsey Courtney, to move back into her role as Director of Health Professions where she can focus full time on critical public health licensing and certification issues. Ms. Courtney has performed admirably in her interim role, but her critical position in the Division of Health Professions needs her full time attention.

I understand that the Council would have preferred to conduct a public hearing before voting on Mr. Edwards' nomination. However, as of this Wednesday the Council will have had four weeks to contact and receive feedback from your constituents and to contact Mr. Edwards directly. I therefore respectfully ask that the Council confirm Mr. Edwards to serve in this role and give this critical agency the support it needs. Failing to do so will leave OPLC shorthanded and threaten the State's ability to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor