



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 28, 2020

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 250

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on July 28th, 2020, I have vetoed House Bill 250.

While I support the concept of adding an adult dental benefit to our state's Medicaid health insurance offerings in the future, I cannot support this bill at this time. As the State of New Hampshire is facing historic revenue shortfalls, there is a fiscal necessity to bring our budget into balance and live within the means of our new revenue base. Working with state agencies and the Legislature, we must begin the process of making the hard choices with our limited resources. I cannot support adding this \$11 million a year General Fund expense for a new service that would necessitate cutting \$11 million in existing services.

House Bill 4, which I signed into law in September, instructed the Department of Health and Human Services to prepare a plan to implement a benefit. It is my hope that we can build on the Department's work thus far and design an adult dental benefits service delivery model that is affordable and structurally sustainable. If so, we can implement a benefit at such a time as the state has the financial resources to do so in a responsible, cost-effective manner.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 250.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor