



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU  
Governor

August 7, 2020

**Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 687**

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 7<sup>th</sup>, 2020, I have vetoed House Bill 687.

In my most recent Inaugural Address, I highlighted the issue of suicide in New Hampshire and called for legislation to bring awareness and suicide prevention. In August of 2019, I signed Senate Bill 282, a bill that requires schools to develop plans and policies to address suicide and to bring training and education into the school setting.

Mental health will continue to be one of New Hampshire's top priorities, and we have taken action to address our state's mental health needs. We have taken steps to rebuild our state's mental health system, making some of the largest investments in decades. Since I took office, the average length of time an individual patient waits for an admission has been nearly cut in half, and the number of days that patients spend waiting in hospital emergency departments has decreased by 60%. However, we must continue to keep improving the performance of our system where possible, as mental health is a critical area that touches all aspects of New Hampshire life.

Unfortunately, the process laid out in House Bill 687 goes too far and would weaken the constitutional rights of law-abiding New Hampshire citizens. This bill could lead to situations where law-abiding Granite Staters have their property seized with no notice or opportunity to speak in their own defense. The lack of due process in this legislation is antithetical to the New Hampshire and American tradition. These and other provisions in House Bill 687 run counter to our constitutional rights as laid out in the 2<sup>nd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup>, and 14<sup>th</sup> amendments to the United States Constitution as well several articles in the New Hampshire Constitution.

I will continue to prioritize suicide prevention and mental health as there is much work yet to be done in New Hampshire, but that work cannot come at the expense of the constitutional rights of our citizens.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 687.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor