



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

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

July 22, 2019

The Honorable Mary Jane Wallner, Chairman
Fiscal Committee of the General Court
State House
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Dear Chairman Wallner,

Please find attached a late Fiscal Item from the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). In my budget, I proposed fully funding the Developmentally Disabled (DD) program through the Fiscal Year 2021. The Legislature agreed and maintained this appropriation. We all share this priority.

During my conversations with Commissioner Meyers, I made it clear that we needed to correct an unintended consequence of the current Continuing Resolution (CR) that was passed by the Legislature. I proposed in my Budget language to allow for funds appropriated to DHHS for the purposes of providing services to Developmentally Disabled (DD) Granite Starters to be non-lapsing. This change would allow the Department to better utilize taxpayer dollars by providing heightened certainty when planning for future participation in the DD program.

In the past, the Department has held back on providing new services to individuals right before the enactment of a budget until there was guaranteed funding to continue those services. This has resulted in large lapses from DD and delays in services to those who need them. Both the House and the Senate agreed with this proposed change.

This Fiscal item would provide for an Emergency Appropriation of \$7.9 million in General Funds and \$7.9 million in matching Federal Funds for a total of \$15.9 million. This is the same amount that lapsed at the end of Fiscal Year 2019.

We should not play politics with this funding – it is funding that implements a policy change that we have all previously agreed upon. We all share the same goal of ensuring that the State is providing services to some of our most vulnerable citizens, and this item ensures that. Those relying on these services deserve nothing less. It is my hope that you will accept and the Fiscal Committee will approve this item.

Sincerely,

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

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor