

RELEASE: Governor Vetoes Key Waiting Period Legislation to Combat Suicide in New Hampshire



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GOVERNOR VETOES KEY WAITING PERIOD LEGISLATION TO COMBAT SUICIDE IN NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE –Today, Governor Sununu vetoed [HB 514](#), which would have established a mandatory waiting period on gun sales in NH with a few exceptions. **House Majority Leader Doug Ley (D-Jaffrey)** released the following statement:

“Governor Sununu’s decision to capitulate to the NRA and reject common sense gun safety legislation is a sobering reminder that Granite State families become afterthoughts whenever the Governor’s top donors choose to weigh in. New Hampshire House Democrats are committed to reducing gun violence in our state, and we will not rest even as Governor Sununu stands in the way. While waiting periods alone will not solve the issue of gun violence, they have proven effective in reducing both impulsive attacks and suicide attempts.”

“Suicide affects more and more Granite State families every year, now the second leading cause of death among young people in our state. During public hearings on HB 514, experts from the NH Medical Society and National Association on Mental Illness (NAMI-NH) explained just how valuable waiting periods are in preventing those contemplating suicide from following through with the act. Given the Governor’s focus on suicide prevention in his inaugural speech, and his signing of legislation to increase suicide prevention efforts in schools last week, it is heartbreaking that that he has chosen to block the most vital suicide prevention proposal from taking effect.”

“With today’s veto of HB 514, we are sadly reminded that Granite State families take a back seat to the NRA in Governor Sununu’s decision-making process. Despite pleadings from New Hampshire citizens and medical organizations to sign this critical bill, the Governor chose to side with the NRA, whose lobbyist testified in opposition. This continues a pattern seen since Governor Sununu first took office, when he assured that NRA model legislation would be the first bill he signed and posed for photos with a national NRA lobbyist who travelled to New Hampshire to attend the signing ceremony.”

“To know that lives will likely be lost over the next year because our Governor blocked this bill is sickening. Every year in New Hampshire, there are over 100 deaths by suicide that involve a firearm. This legislation will be re-filed for next session, and House Democrats will continue to work in the best interest of New Hampshire despite the Governor’s decision to continue blocking progress.”

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