

Release: Protections for At Risk Children and Provision for Unmarried Couples to Adopt Becomes Law

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PRESS RELEASE

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PROTECTIONS FOR AT RISK CHILDREN AND PROVISION ALLOWING UNMARRIED COUPLES TO ADOPT BECOMES LAW

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE –Today, Governor Sununu signed HB [1162](#), legislation that enhances programs for at-risk children in New Hampshire and expands the Office of the Child Advocate, as well as modernizes the adoption statute allowing unmarried couples to adopt. **Chair of the House Children and Family Law Committee, Rep. Pat Long (D-Manchester) released the following statement:**

“On any given day, there are approximately 100,000 children waiting to be adopted in the United States. This legislation modernizes the New Hampshire adoption statute by allowing unmarried couples to adopt. As we heard in testimony from many Granite Staters, including a representative from the Office of the Child Advocate, there is nothing of greater importance to children than a loving home and family regardless of what some may consider is an untraditional makeup. I am proud that New Hampshire now expands and affirms its support for more types of families.”

“The COVID-19 pandemic has revealed more than ever before the importance of expanding the services and support to Granite State children as many children remain at home in potentially unsafe environments. This legislation will expand the Office of the Child Advocate, provide necessary oversight and improve early intervention services to children exposed to substance misuse, abuse and neglect. As we enter an uncertain future of this global pandemic, protecting children and providing them with necessary support should be New Hampshire’s first priority.”

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