

## RELEASE: Governor Sununu Vetoes Covid-19 Relief and Worker Safety

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### New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Majority Office

#### **PRESS RELEASE**

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### **GOVERNOR SUNUNU VETOES COVID-19 RELIEF AND WORKER SAFETY LEGISLATION**

**CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE** –Today, Governor Sununu vetoed House Bill 1166, legislation that would have provided enhanced unemployment relief for COVID-related reasons as well as valuable protections to workers as New Hampshire continues to open. After the veto, **House Majority Leader, Representative Doug Ley (D-Jaffrey)** released the following statement:

“It’s becoming more evident that there is no policy issue safe from the Governor’s veto zeal. I had hoped that legislation aimed specifically at supporting our state’s workforce during a pandemic would have not fallen victim to the governor’s reported “err on the side of a veto” approach to legislating.”

“In his veto message, Governor Sununu claims with certainty that HB 1166 would have cost New Hampshire over \$30 million in federal funding. First, it was not a given that we would be out of compliance with federal regulations. However, in the off chance that this did happen, the bill contained explicit provisions that would have protected our federal funding.”

“HB 1166 as amended would have suspended certain disqualifying conditions for those applying for unemployment compensation if they were in quarantine for COVID-19 or for other COVID-related reasons. It would have ended the 1-week waiting period for unemployment insurance and added language to protect New Hampshire from losing federal funding. Also included were protections for workers that are vital to avoiding spikes like we have seen in other states in coronavirus cases as we continue to re-open. In short, HB 1166 was all about getting people back to work in as safe a way as possible.”

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#### **On Background:**

- To protect the State of New Hampshire, House Bill 1166 contained a severability provision in section 8 of the bill, as follows: “In the event the United States Dept. of Labor provides a written notice to the NH department of employment security that any specific statutory change in this act will result in the loss of federal funding to New Hampshire then that specific statutory change, and that specific statutory change only, shall be inoperative.”
- In response to the bills passed by the House during their last session day on June 30, 2020

Governor Sununu said he would “err on the side of a veto”.

[https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/coronavirus/house-wraps-up-2020-issue-agenda/article\\_054012a6-35fb-53c1-b520-a1cf585e66d5.html](https://www.unionleader.com/news/health/coronavirus/house-wraps-up-2020-issue-agenda/article_054012a6-35fb-53c1-b520-a1cf585e66d5.html)

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Pronouns: she/her/hers

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