

RELEASE: SUNUNU AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS REFUSE SUICIDE PREVENTION MEASURE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

Zack Sheehan <Zack.Sheehan@leg.state.nh.us>

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

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Contact: Rep. Debra Altschiller

Phone: 603-271-2136

SUNUNU AND HOUSE REPUBLICANS REFUSE SUICIDE PREVENTION MEASURE FOR NEW HAMPSHIRE

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE –Today, the New Hampshire House voted 182-156 to sustain Governor Sununu’s veto of HB 687, legislation that empowers family members and law enforcement to act in responding to a mental health crisis and potentially prevent a lethal tragedy. **Prime sponsor of the bill Representative Debra Altschiller (D-Stratham)**, released the following statement

“Today, House Republicans obstructed common sense legislation that undoubtedly would’ve saved the lives of Granite Staters in crisis. Extreme Risk Protection Order legislation is widely accepted around the country and 19 states and counting already have enacted similar policy. The Extreme Risk Protection Order is a civil order, constitutionally tested, that saves lives by temporarily suspending access to firearms when a person is in active crisis and restores access when the crisis has passed. We know that suicide is the second leading cause of death among young people in New Hampshire, another public health crisis for our state.”

“This legislation aimed to provide a tool in preventing a tragedy like suicide when an individual shows signs of crisis. Granite Staters deserve a legislature that will take bold action to prevent tragedy, not merely offer thoughts and prayers after it occurs. Though it is irresponsible and discouraging that Republicans chose to sustain this veto today, House Democrats will continue to advocate for families who have lost loved ones to gun violence and suicide, because we know those families would much rather have attended a court hearing than a funeral.”