



**New Hampshire House of Representatives
Concord, New Hampshire
House Democratic Office**

PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Rep. Matt Wilhelm

Phone: 603-271-2136

**HOUSE REPUBLICANS BLOCK BILL ALLOWING PERFORMING ARTS VENUES TO SET OWN
HEALTH SAFETY POLICIES**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Yesterday, the New Hampshire House blocked HB 1369, relative to COVID-19 health and safety policies at New Hampshire performing arts venues. **Prime Sponsor of the legislation, Rep. Matt Wilhelm (D-Manchester)** released the following statement:

“Having worked in the live events industry for nearly two decades, I’m disappointed that HB 1369 — which received a bipartisan endorsement from the Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs Committee — was tabled yesterday by House Republicans. This pro-business and pro-consumer legislation affirms the right of New Hampshire’s performing arts venues to set their own communicable disease policies to protect their patrons, staff, performers, and financial investments.

The first to close and last to re-open during the COVID pandemic, each of these private and nonprofit businesses has an oversized impact on our main streets and downtowns, including mine in Manchester. House Republicans’ decision to table HB1369 was incredibly short-sided and reflects a failure to bring stability to an industry that explicitly requested support to keep their doors open and their local economies thriving.”