



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

PRESS RELEASE

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**HOUSE REPUBLICANS BLOCK BILL TO MAKE NH ROADS SAFER FOR
RESIDENTS AND WAR-TORN REFUGEES**

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Today, House Republicans killed HB 1093, a bill to close a gap to provide temporary drivers licenses to asylum seekers in New Hampshire. Following the vote, **prime sponsor of the bill Rep. George Sykes (D-Lebanon)** released the following statement:

“Simply put, providing asylum seekers in New Hampshire with temporary driver’s licenses would make our roads safer. It is not enough to merely feign support for refugees from Afghanistan, Ukraine, and other war-torn countries with messages of support on social media or with a lapel pin. We must actively work to craft policy that supports refugees’ dignity and improves safety for everyone in our state.

This bill closes a gap between when an asylum seeker arrives and is issued a work permit and obtains a temporary drivers license. It is disappointing to hear House Republicans refute such an innocuous change in our statute with racist and hyperbolic tropes about struggling families crossing the border in caravans. It is both timely and vital that New Hampshire create safe and welcoming policy for asylum seekers.”