



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

PRESS RELEASE

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MORE RIGHT-WING POLITICAL VIRTUE SIGNALING AT THE EXPENSE OF PUBLIC SAFETY

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Today, the Senate Judiciary committee heard HB 1178, a bill that would prohibit New Hampshire officials from enacting and enforcing federal regulations and executive orders to reduce gun violence. Following the hearing, **House Democratic Leader Rep. David E. Cote (D-Nashua)** released the following statement:

“Preventing New Hampshire law enforcement and judges from helping to stop the sale and creation of illegal weapons like ghost guns, cracking down on firearm trafficking, or enacting programs to reduce gun violence in our streets is not only alarming but likely unconstitutional. This bill exposes the state to costly lawsuits and the loss of hundreds of thousands of dollars in federal aid.

HB 1178 invites firearm traffickers into our state and signals to criminals that New Hampshire is ‘open for business’ as we will not enforce laws to keep firearms out of the hands of dangerous individuals. No one in the Granite State should have to fear that a dangerous individual could have access to an illegal firearm and use it to cause harm to their family. Furthermore, no one in the Granite State should have to fear that in the event of such a tragedy, law enforcement would not be able to work with federal authorities to bring an offender to justice.

New Hampshire Republicans are becoming more radicalized by the day. Just yesterday, Republican Attorney General John Formella joined a legal attack on the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms against a Trump Administration ban on bump stocks after the horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas killing 58 people in minutes. It is unacceptable that New Hampshire Republicans insist on unnecessary right-wing political virtue signaling at the expense of public safety in our state. The Senate Judiciary committee should put an abrupt halt to HB 1178.”