



New Hampshire Senate

## News Release

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Media Contact:

Kate Giaquinto

[kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:kate.giaquinto@leg.state.nh.us)

(603) 271-3043

### **Senate Finance restores funding to New Hampshire's most vulnerable**

**Concord, NH** – The Senate Finance Committee voted today to restore major services as part of the Department of Health and Human Services budget. Funding for vital services including Meals on Wheels, Service Link, Emergency Shelters, and the Developmental Disabilities Waitlist were restored. The committee also increased funds to the Alcohol Abuse Prevention and Treatment fund.

"We listened to our constituents and our state's most vulnerable citizens' concerns about losing the services that they use every day if cuts to funding had been made. In-home services, like Meals on Wheels and Service Link are critical components in assisting the state's growing elderly population, allowing these individuals to stay in their homes for as long as possible," said Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith).

"In addition to being a significant cost savings for New Hampshire taxpayers, bringing services to the elderly in their own homes over being admitted to a nursing home contributes to greater independence and a higher quality of life for many," added Forrester.

"The Senate made the right move in providing full funding for the developmental disabilities waitlist and emergency shelters for the individuals who heavily rely on these services," continued Forrester.

"The Senate has been committed to providing a budget that addresses the needs of the state's most vulnerable. With today's votes to restore significant DHHS cuts, we have developed a thoughtful and compassionate budget that considered the needs of many Granite Staters who benefit from this type of assistance," said Forrester.

"Alcohol abuse in addition to growing opioid abuse problems are negatively affecting communities across the state and by adding resources for treatment and prevention we are working to make sure these individuals are receiving the support they need," said Senate Finance Vice Chair Jerry Little (R-Weare). "This has been a priority of the Senate and I am encouraged by today's vote."

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