



**NH State Senate**

**MEDIA ADVISORY**

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## **Forrester fights to restore nursing home funds**

*Bill would reverse Gov. Hassan's \$7 million nursing home raid*

CONCORD, NH -- Senate Finance Chair Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith) today introduced legislation to assure that the \$7 million that Governor Maggie Hassan intends to raid from New Hampshire's nursing homes is applied as the budget directs. The Senate Rules Committee voted unanimously to allow late introduction of a bill to address the transfer, which Hassan is planning to use to cover overspending elsewhere in the Department of Health and Human Services.

"New Hampshire's nursing homes didn't cause the budget problems at HHS, and they shouldn't be forced to pay for the Governor's failure to control spending," Forrester said. "We've been calling on the Governor to get HHS spending under control for nearly a year. Instead, she's passing the problem down to nursing homes which could lead to staff reductions and could also result in an increase to taxpayers."

HB 1, the state's budget law, includes language that prevents the Governor from transferring funds from nursing home reimbursements. Forrester's bill would uphold the intent of the budget guidelines that Hassan signed into law.

"The Governor has a responsibility to keep state spending within the budget she signed," Forrester added. "She also has to follow the law, which was designed to prevent this sort of raid on nursing homes. My bill will make sure New Hampshire nursing homes get the full funding we promised them in the budget."

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