



New Hampshire Senate

## News Release

**For Immediate Release:**

May 4, 2017

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### **Avard pleased by House passage of stronger rape shield law**

Concord, NH -- Today, Senator Kevin Avard (R-Nashua) issued the following statement after the House passed SB 9, relative to the admissibility of prior consensual sexual activity in sexual assault cases.

"I am pleased that the House voted today to further protect victims of sexual assault. This common sense legislation strengthens the protections by making it clear that a victim's prior sexual history cannot be brought in as evidence during a trial or appeals process."

"We have a duty to protect the privacy and rights of sexual assault victims and their families. This legislation provides them with the assurance that their prior sexual history will not be exposed to the jury, public or the press."

"It is extremely difficult for victims to come forward as it is and we should continue working to remove any barriers that may stand in the way. Thank you to both the House and Senate for choosing to give this meaningful protection to sexual assault victims. "