



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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Contact Name: Sara Persechino

Phone: (603) 271-3479

Email: Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us

Senator Hennessey Leads Bipartisan Bill to Advance Protections for Sexual Assault Victim-Survivors

CONCORD - Today, the Senate passed HB 705 an omnibus bill enhancing protections for sexual assault victim-survivors.

After the vote, Senator Martha Hennessey (D-Hanover) issued the following statement:

“As a state, we are committed to enhanced protections for victims and survivors of sexual assault. This bill improves education on sexual misconduct at our colleges and universities, removes statutes of limitations for sexual assault so survivors are not silenced or denied justice, and bans the sale of diy rape kits that sell false-hopes to survivors of sexual assault, provide no prosecutorial security, and fail to provide the comprehensive, critical care victim-survivors need and deserve.

To my fellow Legislators, I thank you for your dedication to making New Hampshire safer and more just for all. We will continue to work together to create pathways for justice and improve prevention education. To the victims and survivors of sexual assault, you are not alone. Not now, not ever. I look forward to working with my House colleagues to ensure passage of this important package of protections.”

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On Background:

- HB 705 includes text from the following bills:
 - SB 508 *extending the statute of limitations for civil actions based on a sexual assault*
 - SB 679 *requiring institutions of higher education to adopt policies on sexual misconduct*
 - HB 1601 *removing the exception for married minors from the definition of sexual assault*
 - HB 1495 *prohibiting the sale of over-the-counter rape test kits*

- *HB 705 relative to the rights of victims of crime, increasing the cap on assistance for victims of crime, and establishing a committee to study the needs of crime victims and enforcement of statutes governing crime victims' rights*