



NH SENATE PRESS RELEASE

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Governor Sununu Vetoes Senate Democrats' Bill to Protect Granite State Workers

CONCORD - Today, Governor Sununu vetoed HB 1494, a Senate omnibus bill to protect Granite State workers. As amended, HB 1494 covered a variety of workers' protections, including health and safety standards and a state death benefit.

Senate Commerce Chair Kevin Cavanaugh (D-Manchester), prime sponsor of the amendment, issued the following statement in response:

"Throughout this pandemic our state employees have stepped up to keep New Hampshire running. They have taken our emergency calls and provided support, oftentimes at personal risk to themselves and their families. I am extremely disappointed that Governor Sununu could not stand with our state employees and sign HB 1494 into law, particularly as he has left them without a contract for nearly 2 years. Their work has been crucial to the safety and wellbeing of New Hampshire and deserves more than temporary benefits and empty words of praise."

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On Background:

- HB 1494 includes the following bills:
 - HB 1113 *relative to workers' compensation for heart and lung disease in firefighters*
 - HB 1171 *relative to the application of federal Occupational Safety and Health Act standards to public employees*
 - HB 1494 *relative to death benefits for public works employees killed in the line of duty, and relative to workers' compensation offsets for certain retirement system benefits*
 - SB 448 *relative to certification of employee bargaining units*
 - SB 417 *relative to negotiations by individual public employee bargaining units*