



## JOINT PRESS RELEASE

**August 26, 2020**

**Contact Name:** Sara Persechino, Michael O'Brien

**Phone:** (603) 271-3479, (603) 271-0515

**Email:** [Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us), [mike.b.obrien@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:mike.b.obrien@leg.state.nh.us)

### **GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board Recommends Swift Implementation of Rapid Testing at Community Health Centers Ahead of School Start Dates**

**CONCORD** – In July, Senator Lou D'Allesandro and Representative Mary Jane Wallner asked the Department of Health and Human Services to develop a plan and cost estimate for ensuring New Hampshire schools have access to rapid COVID-19 testing. Today, the GOFERR Legislative Advisory Board recommended that plan, 8-0, which will establish rapid testing sites at community health centers across the state.

**House Finance Chair Mary Jane Wallner (D-Concord) and Senate Finance Chair Lou D'Allesandro (D-Manchester), who both serve on the Governor's Office for Economic Relief and Recovery (GOFERR) Legislative Advisory Board, released the following statement after the vote:**

"We're pleased to see that DHHS has followed through, after our initial request, to implement wide spread rapid testing capacity for schools through community centers across the state. As we quickly approach the beginning of the new school year, rapid testing will be a critical tool to help schools address potential clusters and outbreaks of COVID-19 as quickly as possible, with as little impact to education as possible. We thank Commissioner Shibinette for her work, and urge Governor Sununu to approve GOFERR's recommendation today to ensure these sites are stood up as soon as possible."