

STATEMENT FROM NEW FUTURES

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House Finance Committee supports HB 1696, substance use disorder treatment for thousands is one step closer to reauthorization

On March 3rd 2016, the House Finance Committee voted in favor of reauthorizing the New Hampshire Health Protection Program. The program would continue health insurance coverage for nearly 48,000 Granite Staters. Approximately 6,700 of those individuals will likely access treatment services for substance use disorders. The New Hampshire Health Protection Program is the single-most important tool NH has to address its drug and alcohol crisis.

New Hampshire had the third highest rate of drug induced deaths per capita (100,000 residents) in the United States in 2014. According to an October 2015 poll conducted by the University of New Hampshire, Granite Staters view the opioid crisis as the number one issue facing our state. New Futures' advocates will be the first to tell you that access to treatment and recovery services are critical to someone physiologically snared by heroin. On behalf of our constituents, New Futures applauds the House Finance Committee for supporting a practical and bipartisan response to our drug and alcohol epidemic.

*Linda Saunders Paquette,
Executive Director of New Futures*

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