

2018 Policy Scorecard

At New Futures, we recognize the importance of overall health and wellness to New Hampshire, so we advocate for the health of all New Hampshire residents.

During the 2018 legislative session, incredible policy decisions were made which will benefit the health and wellness of the Granite State. In a large part, this was due to the awe-inspiring advocacy of New Futures' partners and trained advocates.

Campaign Priorities

New Futures campaign advocacy requires the hard work of large coalitions to ensure the education of lawmakers and the public and eventual policy decisions made in line with health and wellness priorities. In 2018, New Futures led three campaigns, which spanned our policy focus areas and made New Hampshire healthier.



Reauthorizing Medicaid Expansion

Medicaid Expansion is the single most important program to keep NH residents healthy. SB 313, which reauthorized Medicaid Expansion, passed both bodies of the NH legislature thanks to a strong coalition of health care advocates.



Opposing the Legalization of Marijuana

New Futures opposed HB 656 and the legalization of marijuana. Legalization would hurt our youth, have negative impacts on public health and public safety, and would threaten New Hampshire's quality of life. The bill was sent to interim study.



Preventing Childhood Lead Poisoning

New Futures supported SB 247, which takes important steps to protect children from hazardous lead poisoning. The bill passed and was signed into law by the Governor. It is now effective in the state of New Hampshire.

**For more information or for ways to get involved,
visit new-futures.org.**



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More Advocacy Wins

New Futures follows and advocates on hundreds of bills every legislative session, all of which are decided upon by policy advisory committees comprised of experts and leaders in each field. Here are some more highlights of policy changes made in 2018 which will benefit the health of NH.

Alcohol and Other Drug Legislation



SB 513: Establishing September as NH Recovery Month

SUPPORTED | PASSED

SB 513 will help New Hampshire support and honor those in recovery from addiction. The bill passed the Senate unanimously, passed the House with a voice vote, and was signed into law by the Governor.



HB 1753: Lowering the Drinking Age

OPPOSED | FAILED

HB 1753 aimed to reduce the drinking age in NH from 21 to 20, which would hurt young Granite Staters. With advocacy, the bill was amended and completely changed to a bill affecting minors transporting alcohol.

Access to Treatment Legislation



SB 487: Behavioral Health Workforce

SUPPORTED | PASSED

SB 487 establishes a statewide system of substance use disorder treatment programs, removing barriers to building New Hampshire's behavioral health workforce. The bill passed both the New Hampshire Senate and House of Representatives.



SB 549: Safe Plan of Care

SUPPORTED | PASSED

SB 549 directs health care providers to help develop a safe plan of care for any child born exposed to drugs or alcohol, which will help reduce stigma and support healthy moms and babies. New Futures and partners supported the bill and it is being signed into law.

Early Childhood Legislation



SB 592: Child Welfare and Protection Services

SUPPORTED | PASSED

SB 592 will lead to an improved child protection system by increasing funding for voluntary and community-based protection services and parental assistance programs. The bill passed with tremendous support from state leaders in both bodies.



SB 570: Child Care Scholarship

SUPPORTED | PASSED

SB 570 includes participation in a mental health or SUD treatment program under the requirement for New Hampshire's child care scholarship program, making child care available to many families who are impacted by addiction. The bill passed the New Hampshire legislature.

Health Policy Legislation



HB 1809: Balance Billing

SUPPORTED | PASSED

HB 1809 will prohibit balance billing in certain situations by out-of-network providers, thus eliminating surprise bills after medical services are performed. The bill passed both the Senate and House.



HB 1418: Drug Price Transparency

SUPPORTED | PASSED

HB 1418 creates a commission to look at drug price transparency, which will lead to increased transparency in our health care system. The bill passed both bodies.