



2020 LEGISLATIVE WRAP-UP

Thanks to the help and support of lawmakers, advocates and other partners, the 2020 session was overwhelmingly successful in advancing the health and wellness of the Granite State. Our collective efforts led to the passage of critical bills that will help New Hampshire to address the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and support public health in the years to come.

CAMPAIGN WINS



SB 685 and SB 687: Prescription Drug Price Relief

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1280

SB 685 and 687 were included in HB 1280, which was signed into law over the summer. Together, these bills will help to limit cost increases by allowing NH to import certain medications from Canada, capping co-pays for insulin, and creating a drug affordability board to develop cost-saving strategies and policies, among other measures.



SB 248: Tobacco 21

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1245

This bill, which passed as part of HB 1245, raised the tobacco sales age to 21, the evidence-based age to support prevention, healthy development, and the long-term health and safety of Granite State youth.



HB 1623: Tele-Medicine

New Futures Supported | Passed

This legislation, which was signed into law in July, supports health care providers that serve patients remotely over the telephone or computer, increasing access to health care services for individuals and families. The law requires equal insurance reimbursement for virtual services, allows for phone-based (in addition to video) appointments, and expands the role of telehealth in treating substance use disorders.



HB 665: Behavioral Health Supports in Schools

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1558

HB 665, which was included as part of HB 1558, further authorizes the state Department of Education to support behavioral health services in schools, known as the Multi-Tiered System of Supports (MTSS-B). MTSS-B helps ensure NH youth get the social and emotional support they need.

PRIORITY LEGISLATION

ACCESS TO TREATMENT

HB 253: Fair Chance Hiring

New Futures Supported | Passed

This bill, signed into law in July, prohibits public employers, including state, city and town officials, from asking about an applicants' criminal history prior to a job interview. This will help individuals who have a criminal record due to substance misuse, among other conditions, to secure employment, a critical factor to maintaining long-term recovery.

SB 600: Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) in County Jails

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1639

Included in HB 1639, this legislation requires that county jails provide Medication-Assisted Treatment for qualifying inmates with Substance Use Disorder. This will help to increase access to treatment and reduce risk of fatal overdoses for individuals in the criminal justice system.

SB 633: Recovery Housing

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1245

SB 633, signed into law as part of HB 1245, strengthens the State's registry of recovery housing facilities. This will help to increase oversight and ensure the safety of recovery houses and the individuals they serve.

SB 744: Fatal Overdose Review Commission

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1639

This bill, included as part of HB 1639, establishes in statute the Fatal Overdose Review Commission, which will analyze overdose deaths in order to better identify trends and conditions related to the ongoing addiction epidemic.

SB 745: Drug Court Funding

New Futures Supported | Laid on the table

This legislation, which stalled in the state Senate, would have provided New Hampshire's drug courts with more flexibility in how they spend their state funding, allowing them to serve more individuals in need.

HEALTH POLICY

HB 1512: Medicaid Block Grant

New Futures Opposed | Inexpedient to Legislate

HB 1512, which was defeated in the House, would have required the Department of Health and Human Services to explore funding the State's Medicaid program with a federal block grant. This would have potentially led to reductions of services or enrollment in the Medicaid program, which would have been detrimental to the most vulnerable populations in our State.

HB 1697: Co-pay Coupon Ban

New Futures Opposed | Interim Study

This bill, which was held in the House, would have banned the use of manufacturer-issued co-pay coupons that reduce the out of pocket cost for medications at the pharmacy counter. This would have eliminated these coupons that many Granite Staters depend on to afford their necessary medications.

SB 690: Prescription Drug Formulary

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

SB 690, which stalled in the Senate, would have prevented commercial health insurance carriers from changing the list of medications they cover during the plan year. It would have protected NH residents who pick their insurance plan based on what medications the plan covers.

HB 1140: Hospital Mergers Commission

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

This legislation, which did not advance, would have created a commission to monitor non-profit hospital merger proposals and ensure they consider the physical and mental health services available.

HB 1280: Insulin Price Cap

New Futures Supported | Passed

Signed into law over the summer, HB 1280 reduces the out-of-pocket co-pay for insulin to \$30 per prescription per month for individuals with commercial insurance. This will make insulin much more affordable and accessible for those who depend on it to remain healthy.

ALCOHOL AND OTHER DRUGS

HB 1351: Alcohol Good Samaritan

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1645

This bill, which became law as part of HB 1645, provides immunity from prosecution for individuals under 21 who report an incident related to alcohol overdose.

HB 1610: Drug Take-Back

New Futures Supported | Interim Study

This legislation, which stalled in the House, would have created a pharmaceutical drug take-back program funded by drug manufacturers to support the safe disposal of prescription drugs.

HB 1663: Marijuana Commercialization

New Futures Opposed | Interim Study

HB 1663, which was held in the House, would have legalized commercial sales of marijuana.

SB 621: Specialty Beverages

New Futures Opposed | Passed as part of HB 1245

Included in HB 1245, this bill allows the sale of high alcohol, ready to serve cocktails "to go" from grocery and convenience stores, among other locations. The bill was amended to lower the alcohol percentage and cap the size of products, leaving it in a more acceptable form than the original bill.

CHILDREN'S BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

SB 677: Student Discipline

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1558

SB 677, which was signed into law in July as part of HB 1558, makes changes to the state's suspension and expulsion policies to keep students in school, where they can access behavioral health services and other supports.

HB 1249: Legal Representation for Minors

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1162

This legislation, which became law as part of HB 1162, ensures access to quality legal representation for all children in New Hampshire's juvenile court system. This will help to keep children in their homes, when appropriate, and will help expand access to community-based behavioral health services for children and families in need.

HB 1459: Non-Academic Surveys

New Futures Supported | Laid on Table

HB 1459, which stalled in the Senate, would have established that students will take part in public health or other non-academic surveys unless a parent decides otherwise. This would have helped make more data available to inform public health research and policies.

SB 684: Medicaid to School

New Futures Supported | Passed

This bill, signed into law last spring, further establishes and supports the state's Medicaid to Schools program, which uses federal funds to reimburse schools for healthcare, including behavioral health, services provided to students.

EARLY CHILDHOOD

HB 1233: Early Supports and Services

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1162

Signed into law as part of HB 1162, this legislation requires insurance carriers to cover Early Supports and Services, family-based supports such as special education, evaluation services, and speech, physical and occupational therapies, among others. These services are critical to healthy childhood development and the mitigation of toxic stress.

HB 1705: ACES/Family Clearing House

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

HB 1705, which stalled in the Senate, would have expanded New Hampshire's Family Support Clearinghouse to include information regarding available supports and intervention services to mitigate trauma and the impact of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES), including referral to family resource centers and home visiting programs. This would have expanded information and resources available to families impacted by toxic stress and ACES).

HB 1707: Family-Centered Early Supports and Services

New Futures Supported | Passed as part of HB 1172

This bill, signed into law as part of HB 1172, requires referral to Early Supports and Services for all babies who are born substance-exposed and all children who experience trauma at a young age. This will increase access to critical services, including speech, physical and occupational therapies, among others, for some of our most vulnerable children.

SB 716: Medicaid to Support Child Health and Development

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

This legislation, which stalled in the Senate, would have made changes to the state's Medicaid program to better support child development and family strengthening.

SB 759: Work Accommodation for Pregnant Women

New Futures Supported | Laid on the Table

This bill, which died in the House, would have protected a pregnant woman's right to ask for reasonable accommodations in the workplace. This would have better protected the health of the woman and the baby, reducing the risk of pre-term birth, low birth weight and other concerns.