

PRESS STATEMENT

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NEW FUTURES STATEMENT ON PROPOSED BUDGET DEAL

CONCORD, N.H. – This afternoon, Governor Sununu and legislative leaders announced a deal on the state budget. In response, **Michele Merritt, President and CEO of New Futures**, New Hampshire’s leading health policy and advocacy organization, released the following statement:

“We are encouraged that legislative leaders have agreed to a tentative budget deal. For months now, the health of the Granite State has suffered during the ongoing budget impasse.

“This bipartisan budget deal addresses several important areas of need facing the health and wellness of Granite Staters. Increased Medicaid reimbursement rates are essential to building a workforce better equipped to address the ongoing addiction and mental health crises.

“We look forward to reviewing the rest of the proposed deal to ensure that needed investments are made to support critical programs and services including substance use and mental health treatment, a comprehensive children’s system of care, and Early Childhood supports and services like Medicaid home visiting, among others.

The Granite State is facing overwhelming substance use, mental health, workforce and child protection crises. It’s essential that our state budget address these concerns now and into the future.”

ABOUT NEW FUTURES

New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents through policy change.