



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

August 9, 2019

Governor's Veto Message Regarding House Bill 109, House Bill 514, and House Bill 564

By the authority vested in me, pursuant to part II, Article 44 of the New Hampshire Constitution, on August 9th, 2019, I have vetoed House Bill 109, requiring background checks for commercial firearms sales, House Bill 514, imposing a waiting period between the purchase and delivery of a firearm, and House Bill 564, relative to possession of firearms on school property.

New Hampshire is one of the safest states in the nation, and we have a long and proud tradition of responsible firearm stewardship. Our laws are well-crafted and fit our culture of responsible gun ownership and individual freedom.

Our focus as a nation must be on addressing the root causes of hate and violence. Here in New Hampshire, we have taken multiple steps to address our mental health needs and to build a more welcoming and tolerant state. From the school safety task force, to rebuilding our state's mental health system, including the largest investment of resources in decades, to establishing the Governor's Advisory Council on Diversity and Inclusion, and to establishing the State's first Civil Rights Unit to step up prosecution of hate crimes, we are taking major steps to ensure the safety of our citizens is paramount.

Part I, Article 2-a of the New Hampshire Constitution states "All persons have the right to keep and bear arms in defense of themselves, their families, their property and the state." This language provides what many believe to be more expansive legal protections for gun ownership than the second amendment to the United States Constitution. These three bills would not solve our national issues nor would they prevent evil individuals from doing harm, but they would further restrict the constitutional rights of law abiding New Hampshire citizens.

For the reasons stated above, I have vetoed House Bill 109, House Bill 514, and House Bill 564.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Clith T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu
Governor