

November 17, 2021

Representative Karen Umberger, Chair
Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 210-211
33 N. State Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Approval of \$22.5 million in federal funding for New Hampshire's COVID-19 Immunizations

Dear Representative Umberger and Honorable Members of the Committee:

As a coalition of nearly 30 health care providers and advocacy organizations, representing hundreds of thousands of Granite Staters, we respectfully request that you vote to accept the \$22.5 million in federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) funding to strengthen New Hampshire's COVID-19 vaccine program. With the COVID pandemic ongoing, this funding is critical to providing our health care workers the resources they need to administer voluntary vaccines to those that want them, and to bring this public health crisis to an end.

As we write this letter, New Hampshire is averaging more than 800 new COVID cases each day, nearly one-third of which are among children. More than 6,300 Granite Staters have active COVID, and 294 people are currently hospitalized with the virus which is pushing our ICUs to the limit and delaying needed surgeries and other procedures. We have buried 1,639 of our friends and neighbors due to this disease, and we are losing more every day, despite the availability of vaccines that have been shown to drastically reduce serious illness and death.

To put it simply, New Hampshire's COVID-19 data points are all trending in the wrong direction, and we need your help to stem the tide.

The \$22.5 million in CDC funding up for consideration will go far to help health care providers deliver the vaccines to individuals and families that want them. These funds will provide critical supplies, technical assistance, and increased staffing capacity to help our health care providers increase access to services, reduce wait times and meet Granite Staters' health care needs more quickly and efficiently. They will give our providers the resources they need to get the vaccine to children and families that want them, and to deliver booster shots to others in need. In short, this funding will save lives.

We ask that you accept these funds without delay, and help New Hampshire finally overcome the COVID-19 pandemic.

Respectfully,

Steve Ahnen, President
N.H. Hospital Association

Borja Alvarez de Toledo, M.Ed, President & CEO
Waypoint

Gina Balkus, Chief Executive Officer
Granite State Home Health & Hospice Association

Lisa Beaudoin, Executive Director
ABLE-NH

Thomas E. Blonski, MBA, President & CEO
Catholic Charities New Hampshire

Heather Carroll, Advocacy Director
N.H. Alliance for Healthy Aging

Jaymie Chagnon, Chair, Board of Directors
N.H. Nutrition Network

Lisa Henderson, Executive Director
LeadingAge Maine & New Hampshire

Michele D. Merritt, Esq., President & CEO
New Futures

Amy Moore, Program Director
Ascentria Care Alliance

Eldon Munson, Jr., President, Board of Directors
N.H. Association of Residential Care Homes

Stephanie Patrick, Executive Director
Disability Rights Center – N.H.

Deborah Ritcey, MPA/HA, President & CEO
Granite State Independent Living

Jonathan Routhier, LICSW, MBA, Executive Dir.
Community Support Network, Inc.

Kristine E. Stoddard, Senior Director,
N.H. Public Policy
Bi-State Primary Care Association

Kerran Vigroux, BS, MPH, Executive Director
N.H. Alcohol & Other Drug Service Providers Assn.

Kim Bock, Executive Director
N.H. Coalition of Recovery Residences

Dianne Castrucci, Executive Director
N.H. Alcohol & Drug Abuse Counselors Association

Amy Daniels, Associate Director
Community Health Institute/JSI

Roland Lamy, Executive Director
N.H. Community Behavioral Health Association

Kim Mohan, Executive Director
N.H. Nurse Practitioner Association

April Mottram, RPh, Executive Director
N.H. Public Health Association

Kenneth Norton, LICSW, Executive Director
NAMI New Hampshire

James Potter, Executive Vice President
N.H. Medical Society

Mike Rollo, Director of Government Relations,
New Hampshire and Vermont
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network

Lynn Stanley, LICSW, Executive Director
National Assn. of Social Workers, N.H. Chapter

Nick Toumpas, former Commissioner
N.H. Department of Health and Human Services

Brendan W. Williams, M.A., J.D., President & CEO
N.H. Health Care Association

CC: Governor Chris Sununu; Commissioner Lori Shibinette