

SUBSTANCE USE & MENTAL HEALTH



Access to supports & services

Protect evidence-based harm reduction

Regulate addictive products to prevent youth use

HARM REDUCTION & OVERDOSE PREVENTION

HARM REDUCTION INCORPORATES A SPECTRUM OF STRATEGIES AIMED AT REDUCING THE NEGATIVE AFFECTS OF DRUG USE.

-NH HARM REDUCTION COALITION

Overdose Prevention includes things like:

- Naloxone,
- Drug Test Strips like Fentanyl Test Strips & Xylazine Test Strips



Syringe Service Programs (SSPs) are an evidence-based programs shown to decrease transmission of disease like Hepatitis-C, reduce overdose risk and fatalities, and connect people to treatment and other vital health services

OPPOSE SB549



SB 549: prohibiting the state or local government from distributing or funding organizations that distribute drug paraphernalia.

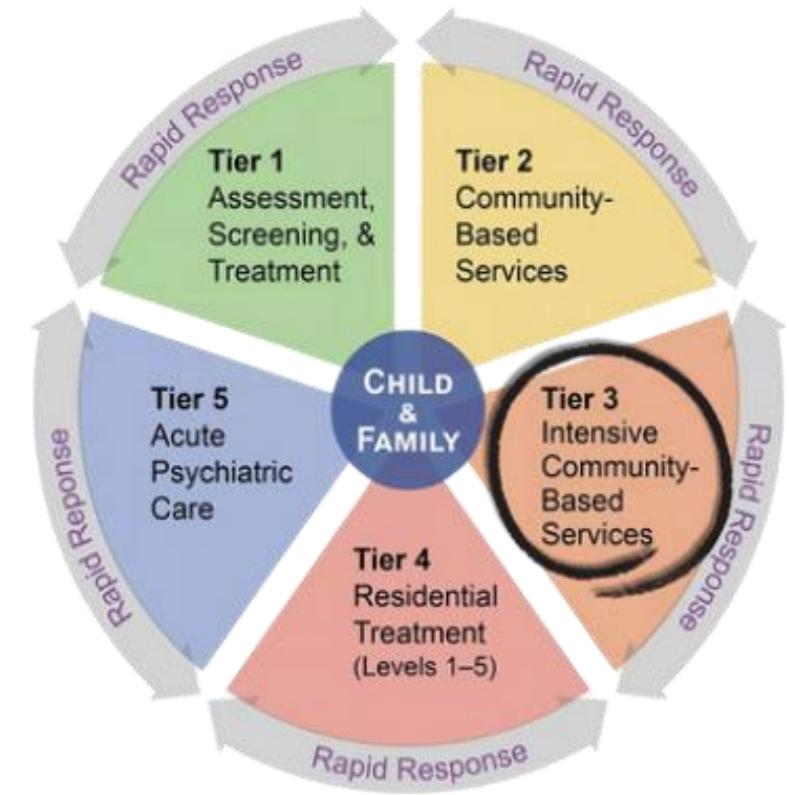
This would be detrimental to Syringe Service Programs (SSP) and other programs funded by the State of NH working to prevention overdose and other harm-reduction strategies in NH.

CHILDREN'S SYSTEM OF CARE

The “wraparound program” provides advanced care coordination to help families navigate complex needs and multiple systems when their child or teen has significant behavioral health needs, including mental health and substance use disorders.

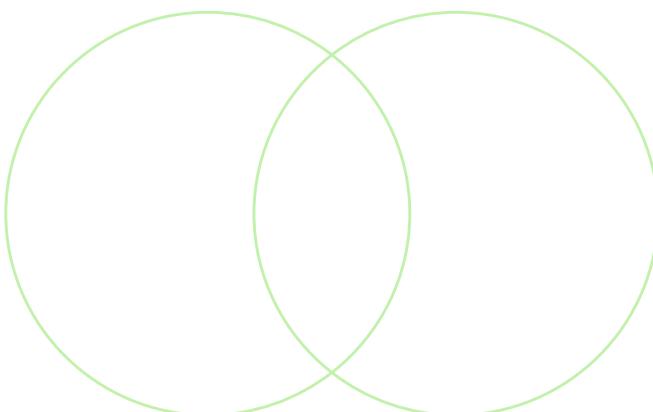
Wraparound Services are covered by Medicare, but NOT by private health insurance

Some children with may become eligible only once their illness becomes more severe & others may not, which often puts the price of these services on taxpayer general fund dollars



MTSS-B

Multi-Tiered System of Support for Behavioral Health & Wellness (MTSS-B) is an in-school “system of social, emotional, and behavioral supports to promote student wellness and improve engagement in learning” (nhmtssb.org)



TIERS OF SUPPORT

- Universal prevention programming, curriculum, policies & practices & screening (Tier 1)
- Skill building & programs for identified students (Tier 2)
- Intensive Support (Tier 3)

IMPROVED SEL & ACADEMIC OUTCOMES

Fewer disciplinary incidents

- Enhanced readiness for learning
- Better attendance
- Improved academic outcomes
- Lower dropout rates

IMPROVE & PROTECT SERVICES & SUPPORT FOR YOUTH

SUPPORT

SB 498 Children's System of Care

would close the private health insurance coverage gap for children's behavioral health care coordination. This bill was designed to:

- Prevent state general funds from subsidizing private health insurance corporations.
- Require private health insurance companies to help pay for these mental health services, creating a partnership between public and private insurers.
- Allow Tier 3 of the Children's System of Care to work as intended for the first time.
- Help NH children get needed care, no matter what type of insurance they have.
- Contribute to more Granite State children and youth access the right care at the right time.

Public hearing on Wednesday, February 11 at 9:30 am at the NH State House in Room 100 with the Senate Health & Human Services Committee

OPPOSE

HB1754-FN Repeals the Multi-Tiered System of Supports for Behavioral Health and Wellness (MTSS-B)

MTSS-B offers “comprehensive, tiered system of social, emotional, and behavioral supports to promote student wellness and improve engagement in learning” (NH RSA 135:F). Repealing this program would remove key programs and infrastructure to support all students in our schools

Public hearing on Wednesday, February 11 at 1:30 pm at Granite Place with the House Education Policy and Administration

LOCAL VAPE
AND
CONVENIENCE
STORES



PROTECTING NH YOUTH FROM Addictive Products & Predatory Marketing

GREATER SEACOAST COMMUNITY HEALTH

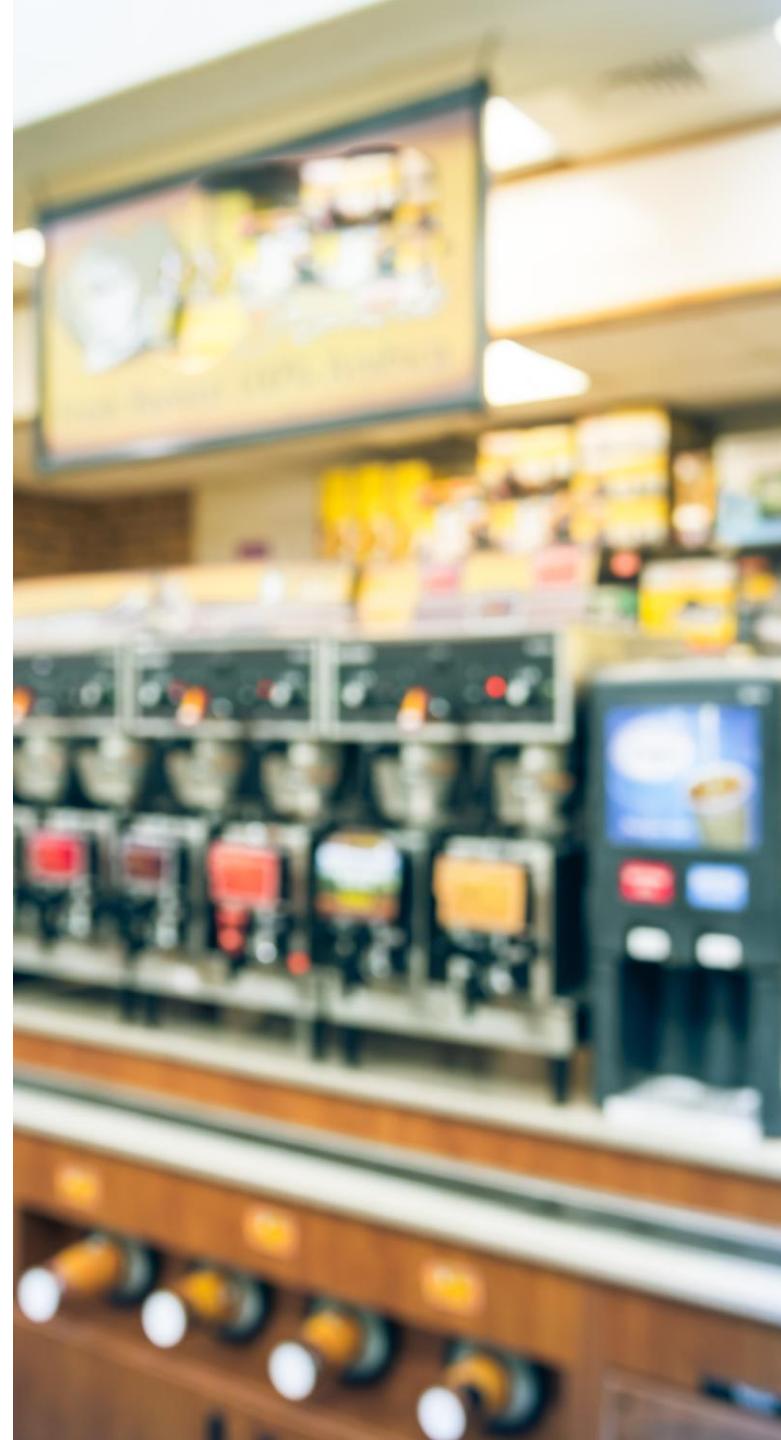


THE PROBLEM: ILLEGAL LOOPHOLES

Addictive Products in the Hands of Youth

Companies are exploiting regulatory gaps to market and sell addictive, dangerous products directly to New Hampshire's youth through gas stations, convenience stores, and online retailers.

To get around current laws, companies have used technical terminology (like "hemp-derived" vs. "cannabis") to evade age restrictions, introduced new addictive substances (kratom, nitrous oxide) with no youth protections, and packaged addictive products as candy, school supplies, or video games.



KRATOM

SB
557

- Described as an “opioid-like substance” containing compounds 13-46 times more potent than morphine.
- Associated with liver damage, seizures, and overdose deaths.
- Marketed as “natural” and “safe” despite serious health risks. Comes in flavors like cotton candy (pictured).



FLAVORED NITROUS OXIDE

HB
1630

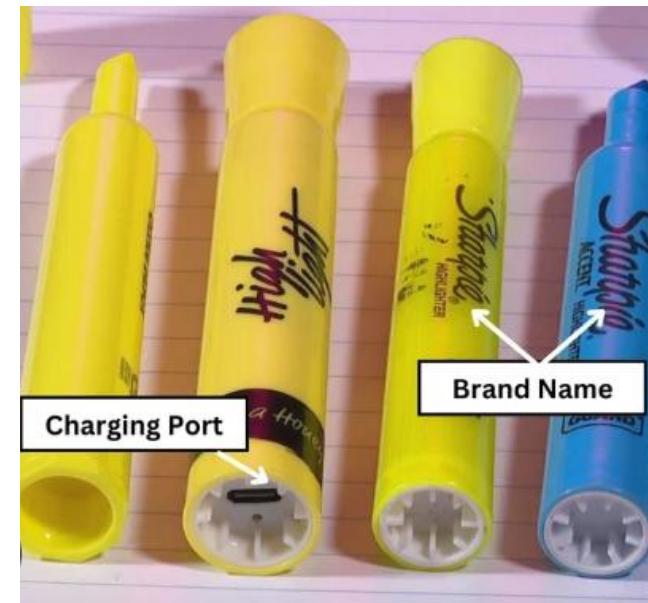
- Sold in flavored containers designed to appeal to youth.
- Health effects include cough, rapid heart rate, paranoia, anxiety, breathing problems, and seizures.
- Promoted by popular influencers on TikTok.



DECEPTIVELY PACKAGED VAPES

HB
1538

- Products designed as school supplies (pens, highlighters, erasers).
- Branded with characters from comics, movies, and video games known to appeal to minors. Include interactive video game capabilities.



HEMP-DERIVED THC PRODUCTS

SB
624

- 11% of U.S. 12 graders used delta-8 THC in 2023—that's 1-2 students in every average classroom.
- Often packaged to look like candy or popular snack brands.
- Poison control centers handled 2,362 adverse events involving delta-8 between January 2021- February 2022.



THE SOLUTION: 5 BILLS 1 GOAL

- New Hampshire has an opportunity to lead by closing corporate loopholes and protecting developing brains. These bills don't create new prohibitions on adults— they close loopholes that companies are exploiting to target children.

The Bill	What it Does
SB 624	Sets stricter penalties for establishments that continue to sell hemp-derived products despite a state law that already bans the sale of these products.
SB 557	Establishes a 21+ age requirement for kratom, prohibits child-targeted packaging, requires warning labels, mandates licensing, and bans synthetic versions.
SB 461	Requires measuring total THC concentration, including all forms that become psychoactive, just like we measure total alcohol content in beverages.
HB 1630	Prohibits the sale of nitrous oxide for recreational purposes, especially flavored products marketed to youth, while protecting legitimate uses (medical, food service, automotive).
HB 1538	Prohibits marketing vapes that imitate non-vape products, using child-appealing characters, or include video game features.