



# E-CONNECT

Legislative Updates and Breaking News from The Moore Center

March 23, 2015

## Proposed State Budget Cuts In The News

### From The Union Leader March 17: **House budget writers trim from Health and Human Services**

House budget writers continued Tuesday to whittle away at social services to meet their target to trim about \$180 million in general funds from the Health and Human Services Department’s budget.

The day before, the House finance subcommittees decided to eliminate Meals on Wheels and ServiceLink, to reduce money for nursing home long-term care, developmentally disabled services and optional Medicaid services, and to cut \$63 million from transportation which would result in more than 300 layoffs, and reduce winter and summer road maintenance.

The budget cuts had House Democrats comparing it to the budget slashing when Bill O’Brien was House Speaker, and Gov. Maggie Hassan said Republicans continue to act like the state is in an economic crisis when it is not. Read the full article [HERE](#)

### From NHPR: **N.H. House Budget Writers Slash H.H.S. Funding**

DHHS is warning House budget writers against cutting \$160 million from the Governor’s proposed budget.

So far the House Finance Committee is proposing roughly \$117 million less from the H.H.S budget. Meanwhile a proposal to cut more than \$28 million from the state’s mental health services remains on the table.

Deputy Commissioner of the department Marilee Nihan tells the committee these cuts are “aggressive.”

“The actions you have taken yesterday as well as this morning will absolutely devastate the Medicaid program.” Nihan said Tuesday.

Items that have been slashed include a \$6 million dollar increase to drug and alcohol prevention programs, eliminating Servicelink which aligns elderly residents with service providers and a \$20 million cut to nursing homes. Read the full article [HERE](#)



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## Call to Action

The budget cuts being proposed by the House Finance Committee are frightening, but there is still a long process before the final budget is approved. Now is the time to reach out to your Representatives and Senators and let them know how important services are to your family. If you have a Representative and/or Senator who supports fully funding the DHHS budget, reach out to them and thank them.

Not sure who your Representatives are? [Check Here](#)