



State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

Speaker Sherman Packard
Office of the Speaker
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Speaker Packard,

September 22, 2021

Out of serious concern for the credibility and proper administration of the legislature, we write to you regarding the Chair of the Joint Fiscal Committee, Representative Kenneth Weyler. The behavior of Chair Weyler towards the Department of Health and Human Services at the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting on Friday, September 17 and in subsequent public interviews has been inappropriate and brought discredit to the New Hampshire House. We believe that for the legislature to continue working effectively with other branches of government, Representative Weyler must be removed as Chair of the Joint Fiscal Committee.

During the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting last Friday, Chair Weyler repeatedly interrupted those testifying from DHHS including Commissioner Shibinette, arguing and calling the information they shared regarding COVID hospitalizations and adverse effects of the vaccine as "in doubt."

In one particular exchange with Commissioner Shibinette, Chair Weyler claimed he has been "hearing from people that are working in emergency rooms saying that 90% of those admitted have had the [COVID] shot." Commissioner Shibinette was quick to reply that this characterization was "incorrect and misinformation."

In follow-up interviews with *NHPR* and the website *NH Journal*, Representative Weyler explained that he does not trust the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, the CDC, or Dr. Fauci, and instead seeks out his own information online. Chair Weyler specifically [told NH Journal](#) that he distrusts Commissioner Shibinette and DHHS because of information he received "on the internet" and from "a talk show [where] a woman says she's an ER nurse."

[NHPR reports](#) that you spoke with Chair Weyler to remind him of "the importance of respecting information provided by our trusted health officials," and that Chair Weyler was undeterred by your conversation. *NHPR* reports that "in Tuesday's interview, Weyler seemed confident in his position: that state and federal health officials are not to be trusted and that it's better to seek out his own sources of information."



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By publicly stating that he does not trust state officials, Representative Weyler is directly harming efforts to work collaboratively to slow the spread of COVID and using his platform as Chair to misinform the public. It is particularly concerning that Chair Weyler ignored your advice to respect state officials and has continued to publicly question the credibility of DHHS.

As Governor Sununu stated following the Joint Fiscal Committee meeting, "it is dangerous and wrong" to contribute to misinformation regarding the COVID vaccine as Representative Weyler has done. The medical community is now [working to correct the record](#) regarding Chair Weyler's claims about vaccination rates and hospitalization.

By statute, the Chair of the Finance Committee serves as the Chair of the Fiscal Committee. Accordingly, we ask that you remove Representative Weyler from his leadership position as the Chair of House Finance and Fiscal Committees, and replace him with a member who respects science and the employees of state departments. The Fiscal Committee cannot be responsibly led by someone who believes "there is nobody in government you can trust" and bases his decision making on information he reads "on the internet."

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Signed,

Rep. Renny Cushing
House Democratic Leader

Rep. Mary Jane Wallner
Ranking Member House Finance Committee

Cc: Representative Kenneth Weyler