



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: May 28, 2021

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Senate GOP protects religious worship during emergencies

HB 542 defines religious organizations as “essential”

CONCORD, NH – The Senate today moved to protect New Hampshire religious organizations during states of emergencies. All 14 Senate Republican voted in support of HB 542 that defines religious organizations as “essential” during any future state emergencies, such as the current pandemic.

“This bill guarantees that religious groups will not be subject to stricter public health restrictions than any other essential organization. That’s important because churches offer solace and other shared community resources, especially in times of crisis,” said Sen. Sharon Carson (R-Londonderry), Chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, who drafted the amended version of the bill.

“Religious organizations are essential,” added Senate Majority Leader Jeb Bradley, (R-Wolfeboro), “Frankly, I can’t believe this is a partisan issue. HB 542 protects religious liberty and the ability of Granite Staters to worship in times of crisis.”

HB 542 heads back to the House for consideration of the Senate’s amendment.

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