



# PRESS CONFERENCE

Join the Office of the Child Advocate, the Oversight Commission on Children's Services, numerous advocacy agencies, and more to discuss HB 49 ahead of a vote to be held in the House on Thursday, March 23rd.

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 22ND, 2023**  
**8:30AM-9:30AM**

**Legislative Office Building Lobby**  
**33 N. State Street, Concord, NH 03301**

A replacement for the current Sununu Youth Services Center has been a contentious topic this legislative session. Initially, SYSC faced a closure date of March 1, 2023, which was ultimately extended until a replacement facility can be built. Once that portion was addressed, heated discussions began around funding. House Finance voted in favor of an amendment to HB 49 last week which was quite concerning to not only the advocacy community but DHHS at large, as the bill included policy changes which need to be thoroughly vetted rather than acted on hastily.

"Experts have come together in support of a trauma-informed, therapeutic replacement facility that can meet the needs of NH children placed at the current facility." Sanchez explains. "We need House and Senate members to trust the experts for what is in the best interest of our state's children."

Waypoint, the Disability Rights Center-NH, New Hampshire Legal Assistance, New Futures, NAMI NH, Children's Law Center of NH, and DHHS all urge House members to support the Edwards Floor Amendment to HB49. This amendment prioritizes the needs of the children placed in the current facility by ensuring they receive treatment and can return to their communities with the appropriate level of therapeutic support.

## Contact:

 603-848-0413  
 [Cassandra.L.Sanchez@ChildAdvocate.nh.gov](mailto:Cassandra.L.Sanchez@ChildAdvocate.nh.gov)

## Presented By:

**Office of the Child Advocate**  
Cassandra Sanchez  
Child Advocate