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October 26, 2020

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**Op-ed: SEA/SEIU Local 1984 President Richard Gulla Calls On New Hampshire Voters to “Stop the Failed Trump-Sununu Agenda”**

WASHINGTON, DC -- Today, SEA/SEIU Local 1984 released an op-ed written by President Richard Gulla criticizing President Donald Trump’s and Governor Chris Sununu’s failed leadership throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. In the piece, Gulla called out President Trump’s inability to control the virus’ spread and inability to take the crisis seriously, while also taking aim at Gov. Sununu for making things worse by vetoing a bill that included paid family leave.

Every four years, we hear politicians say ‘this is the most important election of our lifetime,’” **wrote Gulla.** “I’m usually pretty skeptical when I hear that, but after living through four years of the failed Trump-Sununu agenda, especially the last year, the stakes really couldn’t be higher for working families across New Hampshire.”

COVID-19 has devastated New Hampshire and its economy. The state has seen over 10,000 confirmed cases and over 470 New Hampshire residents lost. Over 44,000 in the state remain unemployed, up more than 24,000 compared to this time last year. This comes as both President Trump and Governor Sununu face reelection in the relatively purple state of New Hampshire.

The full text of Richard Gulla’s op-ed is below, and available on SEA/SEIU Local 1984’s website here:

**The Trump-Sununu Agenda has failed New Hampshire - now we must vote them out**

**By Rich Gulla, President of SEA/SEIU Local 1984**

Every four years, we hear politicians say “this is the most important election of our lifetime.” I’m usually pretty skeptical when I hear that, but after living through four years of the failed Trump-Sununu agenda, especially the last year, the stakes really couldn’t be higher for working families across New Hampshire.

The economic and health impact of President Trump’s failure to contain the coronavirus, or respond to it appropriately, has hurt Granite Staters in ways that can’t truly be conveyed through numbers. We’ve had [over 10,000 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases across our state, with over 470](#) of our friends, family members and coworkers losing their lives. President Trump’s failure in responding to the pandemic of our lifetime is well documented, from his false promise in February that “[one day it's like a miracle, \[COVID-19\] will disappear](#)” to his most recent, and dangerously inaccurate, statement that he’s “[better and maybe... immune](#)”, despite being actively contagious with the virus.

Equally damaging, but perhaps less headline grabbing is how, at every step of the way, Governor Chris Sununu has made things worse for all of us.

In July, when we were deep into the pandemic, the state legislature passed a bill that would have provided workers with 12 weeks of paid family leave to take care of a sick family member. Despite families across our state struggling to get by, especially those who have to take care of a parent, a spouse or a loved one who has COVID-19, Governor Sununu flipped them the middle finger and, by [vetoing the bill](#), essentially told them: you're on your own.

Right now in communities across our state, lots of moms and dads, who lost their jobs due to no fault of their own, can no longer afford to make their mortgage or rent payments. Governor Sununu could have helped them, but instead he [took out his veto pen](#) and decided he'd rather kick families out into the street in the middle of a pandemic rather than providing financial assistance to those who are unable to make ends meet.

And by the way, earlier this month, [President Trump kicked all 26 million Americans on unemployment while they were down](#) and put our entire economy at risk by walking away from COVID-19 relief negotiations to help them.

What did Governor Sununu do about it? Rather than growing a backbone and standing up to this failed President, he went on Fox News to declare that "[Trump will likely win New Hampshire.](#)"

Let's prove him wrong by voting to stop the failed Trump-Sununu agenda. By electing Joe Biden as our next President and Dan Feltes as our next Governor, we'll take the first real step toward rebuilding our economy and stopping the coronavirus so we can secure a future that works for all of our families.

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The State Employees' Union, SEIU Local 1984 represents more than 10,000 members, primarily in public service and publicly funded positions in state and municipal public services in New Hampshire. We are dedicated to improving the lives of workers and communities, advocate for working families in New Hampshire. [www.seiu1984.org](http://www.seiu1984.org)