



# The State Employees' Association Of New Hampshire, Inc.

Service Employees International Union, Local 1984, CTW, CLC

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## Statement Regarding the Sununu Youth Service Center "Incident"

**August 17, 2022, Concord, NH** - Today, I am sad to say that we are in crisis and failing. The incident experienced last night at the Sununu Youth Services Center is not something we should ignore or take lightly. There is a disservice happening here in our state; our agencies are understaffed, our employees are overworked and underpaid, and now we are suffering the consequences. But most importantly, our most vulnerable population, our children, are suffering when they should be protected, and those who choose to protect them are now in danger. We are at a crossroads within our state, and it's time to address the elephant in the room.

As community leaders, it is our job to develop plans to prevent and reduce community violence by addressing the underlying conditions that affect health and quality of life. We need to unite and rally around our communities using local data, including young people with lived experience and the employees working hard to do what's right and address social, economic, structural, and physical conditions that contribute to violence such as this. Starting today, our communities and leaders must implement a comprehensive approach to help solve the problems the state is facing. Election season is upon us, and your vote does matter. It's time to get to the polls, to let the people who run our legislature know enough is enough.

We can prevent violence and force change, but we can't do it without you. It's time for all communities across our state to speak up.

Rich Gulla  
President SEA/SEIU1984

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