

Senate Education Committee

Trevor Currier 271-4151

SB 429-FN-A, relative to the placement of trauma kits in public schools and making an appropriation therefor.

Hearing Date: January 20, 2026

Time Opened: 9:15 a.m.

Time Closed: 9:37 a.m.

Members of the Committee Present: Senators Ward, Sullivan, Abbas, Prentiss and Altschiller

Members of the Committee Absent : None

Bill Analysis: This bill requires the placement of trauma kits in public schools and makes an appropriation to a fund established to fund the placement.

Sponsors:

Sen. Prentiss

Sen. Watters

Sen. Fenton

Sen. Avard

Sen. Rosenwald

Sen. Gannon

Sen. Perkins Kwoka

Sen. McGough

Sen. Birdsell

Sen. Altschiller

Who supports the bill: Senator Suzanne Prentiss, Senator Tim McGough, Senator Cindy Rosenwald, Senator Donovan Fenton, Heidi Kroll (NH Association of Fire Chiefs), Tom Prasol (NH Athletic Trainers), Dr. Dalton Rose, Dr. Nick Perencevich, Dr. Marc Grossman, Ashley Lamb, Precious Burke, Melanie Kasparian, Francis Hayes, Patricia Higgins, Pamela DiNapoli, Katherine Lajoie, Taryn Brassard, Andria Dion, Meredith Thibodeau, Carlene Ferrier, Polly Campion, Martha Jane Rich, Marcy Doyle, Katharine Fox, Frank Muller, Kristian West, Kim Danis, Kirsten Cogan

Who opposes the bill: New Hampshire School Board Association

Who is neutral on the bill: No one.

Summary of testimony presented in support:

Senator Suzanne Prentiss

- Senator Prentiss introduced and testified in support of Senate Bill 429-FN.

- Sen. Prentiss established that this legislation builds upon previous legislation that she worked on, which placed nearly 500 turner kits in high-traffic state-owned buildings.
- Sen. Prentiss stated that the purpose of the legislation is to reduce the number of deaths caused by unintentional injury and uncontrolled hemorrhage. She mentioned that this is the leading cause of death in New Hampshire for individuals aged one to forty-four.
- She stated that uncontrolled hemorrhage can be fatal within five minutes and that turner kits are a simple solution to help reduce the consequences of uncontrolled bleeding.
- She established that AEDs, NARCAN, and Epinephrine are already being administered by members of the public and that this legislation would empower them to also administer turner kits.
- She stated that the bill creates a dedicated fund so that any extra money secured through grants or donations would lower the costs associated with purchasing and deploying trauma kits.
- She stated that the bill requires trauma kits to be placed in public schools to address life-threatening bleeding and traumatic injuries. It specifies that the kits include bleeding control supplies, mandates involvement of local EMS Medical Control in kit placement, and directs administrative services, in consultation with the Bureau of Emergency Medical Services and the EMS Medical Control Board, to determine the number of kits per school, identify priority locations, establish placement and ordering criteria, and develop a schedule for future placement.
- She clarified that the bill does not require school staff to use the kits and that this legislation does not apply to vacant schools or schools under construction.
- She noted that she has heard liability concerns raised in the past regarding similar legislation but stated that individuals who deploy a trauma kit in good faith and are not required to do so as part of their job are protected from liability under the Good Samaritan law.
- She stated that the fiscal note could be significantly reduced since, out of the 453 public schools, some already have trauma kits. The bill aims to fund the purchase of the trauma kits themselves rather than wall-mounted housings. She mentioned that the kits could be placed in existing emergency supply locations, such as AED cabinets.
- Senator Sullivan asked if training would be provided to school staff and who would be responsible for using the turner kits. Senator Prentiss explained that anyone in the building can deploy a kit, noting that they are fairly easy to use. She added that although the bill doesn't require training, it offers an opportunity for local schools to work with local medical providers.

Dr. Dalton Rose, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center

- Dr. Rose testified in support of SB 429.
- He confirmed that adult size turner kits are still effective when used on children.
- He stated that early deployment of a turner kit is crucial and greatly improves the chances of survival by controlling blood loss and stabilizing the patient.

Dr. Nick Perencevich

- Dr. Perencevich testified in support of SB 429-FN.
- He testified that using a turner kit could potentially save a life, but there is still a risk of losing a limb.
- He shared a personal story about the Sandy Hook school shooting that resulted in twenty-six deaths. He highlighted two main lessons from this event: the need for action on firearms and the importance of addressing bleeding and hemorrhaging. He mentioned that half of the fatalities in the Sandy Hook shooting were caused by blood loss from extremities.
- He stated that anyone can administer a turner kit.

Dr. Marc Grossman, State Medical Control Board

- Dr. Grossman testified in support of SB 429-FN.
- He emphasized one core medical truth: uncontrolled bleeding is the leading cause of preventable death after traumatic injury.
- He stated that individuals can bleed to death in under 5 minutes.
- He highlighted the Parkland school shooting, where seventeen people were killed and seventeen others were saved because bleeding was controlled early.
- He stated that after shock sets in, the risk of death increases by thirty percent.
- He compared bystanders administering CPR before the arrival of first responders and viewed this in a similar light.
- He said that serious injuries can and do happen at school, giving examples like playground falls, sports injuries, shop class accidents, and bus crashes.
- He stated that he believes all children should receive training on how to use the trauma kits.

Summary of testimony presented in opposition: There was no testimony in opposition.

Neutral Information Presented: There was no neutral testimony presented.

T.C.

Date Hearing Report completed: January 20, 2026