

# New Hampshire Chapter

American Academy of Pediatrics

DEDICATED TO THE HEALTH OF ALL CHILDREN®



April 16, 2026

Honorable John Hunt Chairman  
Commerce and Consume Affairs Committee  
New Hampshire House

RE: SB 498- OTP

Good afternoon, members of the House Commerce Committee. My name is Dr. Christine Arsnow. I am a pediatrician in Concord and President of the New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. I am here to respectfully ask you to vote **OTP on SB 498**. I appreciate the time and effort this committee has put into understanding this bill and how best to ensure insurance coverage for these critical services. I'd like to briefly share a patient story that illustrates why this matters.

I care for a 16-year-old young man with severe anxiety that worsened after a major life stressor. He was engaged in outpatient therapy, but his symptoms escalated, and he began experiencing increasingly intense suicidal thoughts. When he recognized that once-weekly therapy was no longer enough, he reached out for help.

Because he had private insurance rather than Medicaid, he was not eligible for the Fast Forward Wraparound program. Instead, he was directed to the emergency department to await possible inpatient admission. After 48 hours in a windowless hospital room, eating hospital food and without meaningful therapeutic support, his condition had worsened. He and his mother ultimately chose to leave.

He continues to struggle—he is barely passing school, has lost many of his friendships, and despite ongoing therapy, he is not improving.

The Fast Forward Wraparound program is an evidence-based, intensive outpatient model designed to stabilize patients and prevent hospitalization. While private insurers may point to alternative programs, we have not seen options that are as comprehensive or that demonstrate the same outcomes as Fast Forward.

Adolescence is a critical window. When we provide timely, effective mental health care, we give young people the tools to recover and thrive. When we fail to do so, the consequences can be lifelong.

SB 498 helps ensure that all patients—regardless of insurance type—have access to this proven level of care. For this reason I urge you to vote **OTP on SB 498**.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony.  
Sincerely,

Christine Arsnow, MD  
President, New Hampshire Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics  
Primary Care Pediatrician