

For Immediate Release  
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### **House Speaker Sherman Packard responds to today's passage of HB2023**

Concord, NH: House Speaker Sherman Packard (R-Londonderry) responds to the passage of HB2023, making appropriations to the department of energy for a state emergency fuel assistance program and a supplemental electric benefit, and relative to the electric low-income program fund:

“Today was a huge win for New Hampshire. In a bipartisan effort, this energy assistance bill passed by a voice vote giving the green light to provide up to \$35 million in aid to families who earn between 60-75% of the state median income. The new program will supplement existing assistance programs that help households making 60% or less than the state median income.

An additional \$7 million is appropriated in the bill to bolster the existing Electric Assistance Program for those households making 60% or less.

The fiscally responsible leadership of the General Court of NH has produced a budget surplus which allows us to create this one-time emergency relief package that will help offset rising fuel and electric costs this winter.

This bill provides direct relief to those in need and reduces the anticipated burden placed upon municipal welfare programs - a cost that would otherwise be passed along to property owners at the local level. We believe these surplus funds will alleviate some of the financial pressure for NH families who would otherwise not qualify for existing assistance programs. By coming together today, we chose NH citizens over party politics.”

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