



New Hampshire Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: February 15, 2022

Senate Republicans announce legislative priorities for 2022

Conservative, common-sense plan builds on gains from 2021

CONCORD, NH – Senate Republicans issued their legislative priorities for 2022 today with an emphasis on keeping Granite Staters safe during the continuing COVID-19 pandemic, helping working families, supporting Main Street businesses, protecting taxpayers, supporting mental health, improving educational opportunities, keeping our homes and streets safe, fixing our bail laws so dangerous and violent criminals aren't threatening the safety of neighborhoods, ensuring honest elections, expanding workforce housing, working on infrastructure improvements, energy and the environment.

Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) said, "As we start the new legislative session, the people of New Hampshire can count on Republicans to focus on the issues that matter most to our working families and Main Street businesses. We're living in serious times and serious times deserve real action. That's why Republicans plan to deliver conservative, common-sense legislation that will continue to move New Hampshire forward, building on the strong gains we made in 2021."

Majority Leader Jeb Bradley (R-Wolfeboro), echoed Morse's sentiments saying, "Republicans intend to concentrate on issues that will have the greatest and the most positive impacts on the lives of New Hampshire citizens. This means keeping people safe as the COVID-19 pandemic remains with us, continuing to strengthen our economy, protecting taxpayer dollars, improving educational opportunities, investing in mental health and ensuring honest elections."

Republican priorities will build on historic gains in 2021 and include:

Keeping our families healthy and safe during the Covid 19 pandemic

While things are beginning to return to normalcy, the surge of new COVID cases this winter has shown us we are not out of the pandemic yet. Helping our working families during these challenging times continues to be our priority.

- Continue to work with Governor Sununu on distribution of future federal relief money for working families and Main Street businesses.
- Ensure sufficient dollars for the Attorney General's lawsuit against the Biden mandates.

Helping our working families

As we enter 2022, New Hampshire families are facing challenges on multiple fronts. Rising inflation threatens to make necessities like food and gas less affordable. The pandemic continues to bring worries about our health and safety. We need to ensure that we are creating policies that keep the interests of working Granite State families at the forefront.

- Provide additional education funding, if our budget picture allows, to further lower property taxes.
- Protect NH patients from high cost "balance billing" related to emergency services.
- Help NH families dealing/struggling with Alzheimer's by expanding respite care.

Supporting our Main Street businesses

Small businesses struggled mightily during the height of the pandemic. With federal grant money ending and continued labor shortages, it is imperative that we do what we can to help them rebound. Last year, we cut business taxes so that businesses were able to keep more of their own money and invest it back into their companies. We need to continue to cut unnecessary regulations and red tape and keep taxes low on small businesses.

- Continue to protect the gains we achieved on lowering business taxes and workers compensation costs.
- Lower health insurance costs through association health plans.

Protecting taxpayers

In the fall of 2020, New Hampshire voters sent a clear message: They do not want higher property taxes and a new state income tax proposed by the Democrats. Senate Republicans kept our promise to stop any new broad-based tax and provided over \$300M in property tax relief to New Hampshire families. In 2022, we plan to continue down the road of lower taxes so working families can keep more of their hard-earned money.

- Oppose spending proposals that would necessitate an income tax, sales tax, capital gains tax or any new taxes.
- Oppose donor town funding schemes.

Mental Health

The pandemic has put a spotlight on our need for improving mental health services in the Granite State. Those who have never sought any therapeutic help have found that the stresses and consequences of the past two years have led them to seek help. We need to improve and increase access to and availability of these necessary services.

- Close Sununu Center and establish community-based options.
- Work with Governor to provide additional access for mental health beds including new facilities.
- Work with Governor Sununu on using ARPA funds for after school programs.

Improving educational opportunity/input and giving parents a voice in their children's education

Last year we passed New Hampshire's innovative new statewide Education Freedom Account program to encourage school choice for low-income NH families. This year, we are going to continue to push for more school choice, as well as ensuring that parents' voices in their children's education are not silenced, but rather encouraged, and more importantly, listened to by local school boards.

- Protect school choice options for NH families.
- Support local school districts and lower property taxes with increased funding.
- Ensure that NH parents have the right to speak at their local school board meetings and have a say in their children's curriculum.

Keeping our streets and homes safe

In New Hampshire we pride ourselves on consistently being named one of the safest states in the country. Unfortunately, we've seen a disturbing rise in crime throughout the country. We need to stop this trend before it spreads and ensure that New Hampshire remains the best place to live, work and raise a family.

- Ensure our bail system prevents violent criminals from further harming the public and ensure that individuals who have received bail, actually show up for their judicial proceeding.
- Improve notification after arrest of those on probation and parole.

Ensuring honest elections

Honest and fair elections are the key to a healthy Democracy. We need to ensure that New Hampshire ballots are being cast only by New Hampshire residents and that the Democrats' dangerous federal takeover of our elections is stopped before it takes root in our state and threatens our secure election process.

- Ensure voting is reserved for NH residents.
- Update and improve absentee ballots applications.
- Update and clarify NH's campaign finance limits.
- Improve NH voters' access to election information.

Infrastructure Improvements

Strong infrastructure is paramount to a strong state economy, from repairing our roads and bridges to increasing broadband capacity in our rural communities. We need to ensure that our infrastructure money is spent efficiently on the most necessary projects.

- Develop a 10-year highway plan that partners with federal improvement projects while also identifying necessary state projects for transportation funding.
- Work with the Governor to implement an environmental infrastructure program funded through ARPA funds. Projects will include parks, dams, hatcheries and others.
- Work with the Governor to use ARPA funds to implement telecommunication improvements such as connectivity.
- Work with the Governor to use ARPA funds for regional communication equipment upgrades.
- Protect taxpayers from high public works construction costs.

Energy & the Environment

Gas prices and the cost to heat our homes have risen markedly since the new administration took over in Washington. New Hampshire needs responsible state energy and environmental policies that look out for Granite State families.

- Require the Saint Gobain company to pay for remediation of PFAS pollution in Merrimack.
- Protect New Hampshire families from efforts to increase costs of energy, including electricity and home heating oil.
- Ensure New Hampshire cities and towns have the funding they need to improve water quality and repair or prevent contamination of their water supply.

###

Media Contact:
Carole Alfano
Communications Director
carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us