

Bill as Introduced

HB 631-FN-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

2011 SESSION

11-0806

04/05

HOUSE BILL **631-FN-LOCAL**

AN ACT repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

SPONSORS: Rep. Maltz, Hills 27

COMMITTEE: Education

ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten, and exempts those school districts that implemented a public kindergarten program pursuant to 2008; 384:3 from the kindergarten construction grant program repayment penalty.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in **bold italics**.
Matter removed from current law appears [~~in brackets and struckthrough~~].
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

HB 631-FN-LOCAL - AS INTRODUCED

11-0806
04/05

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Eleven

AN ACT repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

- 1 1 Repeal. 2008, 384:3, relative to the kindergarten implementation plan, is repealed.
- 2 2 Kindergarten Construction Grant Program Repayment Penalty; Applicability. The
- 3 kindergarten construction grant program repayment penalty set forth in RSA 198:15-t shall not
- 4 apply to a school district which implemented a public kindergarten program pursuant to the
- 5 requirements of 2008; 384:3.
- 6 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.

LBAO
11-0806
01/07/11

HB 631-FN-LOCAL - FISCAL NOTE

AN ACT repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

FISCAL IMPACT:

The Department of Education states this bill will reduce state education trust fund and local expenditures by an indeterminable amount in FY 2012 and each year thereafter. There will be no fiscal impact on state, county, and local revenues or county expenditures.

METHODOLOGY:

This bill repeals the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten, and exempts those school districts that implemented a public kindergarten program pursuant to Ch 384:3, L' 2008 from the kindergarten construction grant repayment penalty.

The Department of Education states the fiscal impact of the proposed legislation can not be determined because it is not possible to determine which districts may choose to eliminate kindergarten programs and planned construction. The Department states there would be a reduction in state education trust fund expenditures based on a reduction in state costs for per pupil kindergarten payments and education adequacy payments under RSA 198:42. The Department also notes there would be a reduction in the costs associated with construction of new kindergarten classrooms.

The Department also notes that a total of six school districts have implemented a public kindergarten program pursuant to Ch. 384:3 L' 2008. The Department states that \$2,044,520 has been paid to date to these six districts with another \$2,078,300 having been requested for FY 2012 and \$12,000,000 in FY 2013. Consequently, exempting these six districts from the grant repayment penalty would preclude the State's ability to recuperate these monies in the event that any of the six districts choose to eliminate their public kindergarten programs as a result of the proposed legislation.

Speakers

8

Fill in ONLY IF SPEAKING on Bill

Bill # 43631 Date 2/25/11

Committee Education

I support the bill _____

I oppose the bill _____

I have written testimony _____

(Number of copies) _____

Time needed to speak: 1 min

Name Christina Wallace

Address 491 Mammoth Rd

Londonderry NH

Phone 603-437-0104

Representing ~~Christina Wallace~~
NH Families + Children

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 631-FN-2 Date 2/8/11 3:00 pm
 Committee Education

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one)	
				Pro	Con
Rep. Cory Wheaton	40 Denman Ave	474-0502		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Suzanne Smith	Grafton	7	Plymouth Hebron	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Chuck Townsend	Grafton	10		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Timothy Horvath			Stratford	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Carolyn Gargas	Hills Dist	5		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marjorie Porter	Hills Dist	1		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Carl Seidel	Hill	20		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Alexis Jock	Center St			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Laura Hainey	Bow		APT-111	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Marie Sapir	^{Sapir} Rock	8		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Celith Womersley	Bellows	3		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fran Wendelboe	New Hampton		self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Cynthia L. Chase	110 Arch St #38	Keene -357-2381		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lise Morris	Nashua, NH			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Louise Hodges	Grafton	11		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Sen. Jim Forsythe			Dis 4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Maurice P. Plette			Hills 16	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. John R. Cloutier	10 Spruce Ave Claremont	542-6190	Sull. #4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Donna Schlachman	Kel	Dist #13		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Shannon Chandley	672-6540		Amherst	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. Frances Potter	225-3399		Merr 10	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rebecca Gifford	43B Riverside Farm Dr	Lee NH 03861		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Carol Croteau	Kingston			<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

SIGN UP SHEET

To Register Opinion If Not Speaking

Bill # HB 631-FN Date 2/8/11 3pm
 Committee EDUCATION

** Please Print All Information **

Name	Address	Phone	Representing	(check one)	
				Pro	Con
Christoph Lemell	21 Canterbury Rd	Windham		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
REP. SANDRA KORN'S				<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Jacalyn Colley	8 Oak Hill Rd.		Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Margaret Dye	PO Box 3	Plainfield NH	03781	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Eliza Flockhart	62 Park Ct.	Exeter	03833	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Eileen Landros	Cell Meffan	Bedford	Self	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rick Trombly	9 South Spring St	NEA-NH		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep Carl Vito	MIDDLETON	CONCORD	STRAF 3	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sally Davis	50 Sugar Run	Thornton	self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep. David Watters	DOVER	STAFFORD	4	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cynthia Wallace	Londonbury	603 437 0104		<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dannelli Collins	Manchester	603 622-9858	CARR	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Elizabeth Blanchard	Penacook, NH	753-4039		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Andrew Stevens	PO Box 301	Bradford, NH	03021 self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Melissa Clark	Bow, NH		Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cynthia Muse	Rye, NH		Self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Manhau Beaver	21 Hillcrest Dr.	Rochester	self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep BOTH			MON 6	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
SEN SILVIA LARSEN			DIST 15	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Rep Mary Jane Wulher			MEIR 12	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Cathy Reschke	239 Baton Corey	den NH		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mary Jo Clark	Paris, Nts		self	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Dorile Cooper	105 Pahray Ln	Manch. NH	03109	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Helen Schotanus	28 Sugarwood Ln	Grantham	03753	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

Hearing Minutes

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 631-FN-L

BILL TITLE: repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

DATE: 2/8/11

LOB ROOM: Reps Hall **Time Public Hearing Called to Order:** 3:05 pm

Time Adjourned: 4:10 pm

(please circle if present)

Committee Members: Reps. Balboni, Boehm, Hutchinson, Ladd, Fleck, St. Cyr, Brosseau, Greemore, Hill, Hoell, Jones, Lauer-Rago, Pitre, Gile, Shaw, Gorman and Frazer.

Bill Sponsors: Rep. Maltz, Hills 27

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

Rep. Maltz - Sponsor

- Referenced RSA 31:10
 - Education should be locally controlled
 - State mandated kindergarten. Hopeful that current legislature would not further downshift
 - 28-a violation
 - Constitutional violation
 - Asked if there was any public hearing in hos town regarding the bill - No

***Erika Argersinger, Policy Director - Children's Alliance - Opposes Bill.**

- See written testimony
- If repeals, NH will be only state in nation without Kindergarten
- Kindergarten results in less retention, fewer special education students
- Kindergarten is a cost savings as it results in less remediation

• ***Patricia Ewen, NH DOE - Opposes Bill.**

- 11,969 kindergarten children in NH
- 30% of incoming students not prepared for the school day
- See written testimony

Danielle Collins, Child Care Resource & Referral - Opposes Bill.

Rep. Bill Remick - Opposes Bill.

- Referenced downshifting of costs

- Shouldn't balance budget on kindergarten students

Danielle Collins – Opposes Bill.

- Kindergarten is very important – please consider keeping!

Charlotte Antal – Opposes Bill.

- Spoke about her youngster with autism
- Kindergarten program/schools provides needed support

Sherry Kramer, Salem Voters & Strength In Our Schools – Opposes Bill.

- State aid essential for kindergarten

Rep. Waddell – Opposes Bill.

Susan Ford, former Rep. from Easton

***Jackie Cowell, Early Learning NH – Opposes Bill.**

- Provided handout which addresses mission readiness and importance of early learning

Liz Blanchard, former School Board member/Representative – Opposes Bill.

***Kelly Laflamme – Opposes Bill.**

Rep. Peter Schmidt – Opposes Bill.

- Testified in opposition with understandings he observed as a college instructor

Respectfully submitted,



Rick Ladd, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

PUBLIC HEARING ON HB 631-FN-L

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Bill Sponsors: Rep. Maltz, Hills 27

TESTIMONY

* Use asterisk if written testimony and/or amendments are submitted.

HB 631

Repealing Kindergarten

① Rep. Malta (sponsor)

referenced ~~RSA 3~~

RSA 32:10 - - -

- education should be a locally controlled
- state mandated kindergarten, Hypothesis that current legislation would not further transition,
- 28-a violation
- constitutional violation.
- asked if there was any public hearings in his town regarding the bill - - - NO

② Erika Argeringer (oppose)

Policy Director Childrens Alliance of N.H.

~~not here~~ see written testimony

~~Patricia~~

◦ it repeats, N.H. will be only state in nation w/o K.

◦ Kindergarten results in less retention, fewer ~~sped~~

◦ Kindergarten is a ~~\$~~ savings as it results in less remediation Sped

③ Patricia Ewen DOE (oppose)

◦ 11,969 K children in N.H.

◦ 30% of incoming students not prepared for the school day.

◦ see written testimony.

⑤ Danielle Collins (oppose)
Child Care Resource + Referral

④ Bill Remick Representative (oppose)
• referenced downshifting of costs -
• shouldn't balance budget on K state.

⑤a Danielle Collins (oppose)
• K very important, please consider keeping!

⑥ Charlotte Antal (oppose)

⑥ • spoke about her grandson w/ autism.
• K program/schools provides needed support.

~~⑦ Cynthia Wallace (oppose)~~

⑦ Sherry Kramer - Salem Voters + Strength ~~One~~ In Our Schools.
(oppose)

• state and essential for K students

⑧ Cynthia Wallace - N.H., Families + Children

(oppose)

• emphasized importance of kindergarten.

⑨ Representative Woodell (oppose)

⑩ Susan Ford former Rep from Eastern

⑪ Tackie Conell Early Learning, N.H., (oppose)

• provided handout which addresses mission readiness and importance of early learning.

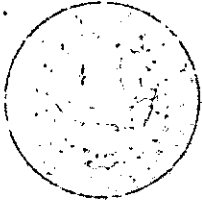
⑫ Liz Blanchard
(oppose)

former school
board member / representative

⑬ Kelly Loftman (oppose)
o see written testimony.

⑭ Rep. Peter Schmidt (oppose)
o testified in opposition ~~giving~~
with understandings he observed as
a college instructor -

Testimony



JOHN H. LYNCH
Governor

State of New Hampshire

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

107 North Main Street, State House - Rm 208

Concord, New Hampshire 03301

Telephone (603) 271-2121

www.nh.gov/governor

governorlynch@nh.gov

February 8, 2011

The Honorable Michael Balboni
Chairman, House Education Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 207
33 North State Street
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman Balboni and Members of the Committee:

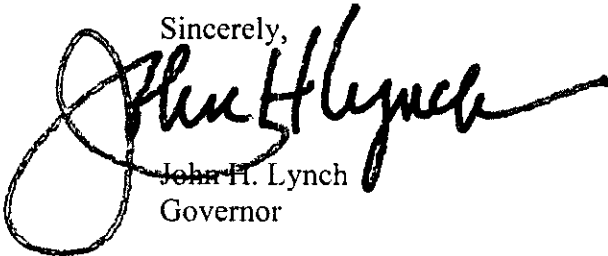
I believe that our children are the future of our state. They are our future elected officials, our future first responders, CEOs and educators.

As Governor, I have worked tirelessly, to improve the opportunities we are providing for our children to receive a quality education. I believe we have made significant progress in meeting that goal.

In 2007, for the first time, the state defined an adequate education – a definition that includes Kindergarten. The independent research is clear about the importance of kindergarten to the education of our children and the contribution it makes to ensuring later academic success. By ensuring all of our children have the opportunity to attend kindergarten, we are laying the foundation for success, and providing an equal opportunity for all students to begin their education on sure footing.

I believe that education is the opportunity we provide all our children to have better lives and better futures. This opportunity should begin with kindergarten. I urge you to continue to support access to public kindergarten for all New Hampshire children.

Sincerely,



John H. Lynch
Governor



Children's Alliance
of New Hampshire
Raising our Voices for Children

2

Dear Chairman Balboni and members of the Committee,

My name is Erika Argersinger and I'm the Policy Director for the Children's Alliance of New Hampshire. We are an independent research-based advocacy organization that promotes policies and practices that enable all children to lead healthy and productive lives and reach their full potential. Public access to kindergarten is a critical element in ensuring children are ready for school and future success in work and life – and for this reason the Children's Alliance opposes House Bill 631.

The research on this issue is clear: students who attend kindergarten do better than their peers who do not both academically and socially, and they enter first grade more prepared and ready to learn. Children who attend kindergarten are more likely to attend high school and are more frequently able to support themselves in the future through employment. In fact, the empirical evidence in support of early education is so strong that all 50 states in the nation have passed laws to ensure that all children are guaranteed this firm foundation; many offer full-day kindergarten, and some are moving toward universal pre-k.

But the positive impact of public access to kindergarten is not just about benefits to individual children. It is about jobs and our future economic health and competitiveness. Low graduation rates and educational achievement gaps threaten New Hampshire's future workforce. An educated workforce helps New Hampshire businesses prosper and will help attract business to our state, bolstering our future economy. Alternately, if New Hampshire repeals the mandate to offer public kindergarten, it will become the only state in the nation that does not guarantee this access and will put our children at a competitive disadvantage when it comes to job readiness.

One argument for this bill is that it will help the state address the current budget shortfall by cutting state spending. I urge you to consider that this is a very shortsighted view. A Department of Education study showed fewer placements in special education classes and institutional care, fewer grade retention cases, and fewer arrests among students who attended kindergarten. So providing all children access to kindergarten actually translates into saving the state money in the future in the form of reduced costs associated with special education, juvenile delinquency and future public assistance. The benefits of fewer grade retention cases alone will save the state about \$2.5 million annually, according to the Department of Education study.

Since the state guaranteed public access to kindergarten, nearly 1,500 more children have benefited from attending public kindergarten than were prior to the mandate. In 2009, there were more than 13,000 children attending kindergarten in New Hampshire, with just 9 percent, or 1,200, being served by private options. Research shows that those students who grow up in a lower socioeconomic status reap the biggest impact from the benefits that kindergarten offers – it provides them the opportunity they need to compete with their peers. These are the very students least likely to be served by private options, so even in a community where many students are accessing quality kindergarten, those who stand to benefit the most are left behind in a system without public access.

Repealing the requirement that school districts provide kindergarten will not save the state money in the long run – it will only serve to deprive most of New Hampshire's youngest citizens an equal opportunity to learn and grow, and be prepared to be contributing members of our state's workforce. The Children's Alliance of New Hampshire urges you to ensure that your community has preserved its future. Please oppose this bill.

Respectfully submitted,
Erika Argersinger, Policy Director, Children's Alliance of New Hampshire

Virginia M. Barry, Ph.D.
Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3144



3

Paul Leather
Deputy Commissioner of Education
Tel. 603-271-3801

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
101 Pleasant Street
Concord, N.H. 03301
FAX 603-271-1953
Citizens Services Line 1-800-339-9900

February 8, 2011

Testimony in opposition of HB 631

Good Afternoon,

My Name is Patricia Bradley Ewen and I'm the Early Childhood Development Specialist within the Office of Early Childhood Education at the New Hampshire State Department of Education. One aspect of my work for the Department of Education is to provide technical assistance to the statewide Kindergarten - 3rd grade programs; to support administrators in their goals for those programs, to visit them and provide guidance on curriculum and developmentally appropriate practice. Related to this work are the Department assertions for early learning, specifically to support the lowest performing 5% of schools. Thus I also work with the childcare community to support children during transitions and readiness between early care and Kindergarten education. I know you have heard and will hear from many people, including Governor Lynch, on the research that supports early learning initiatives. I would like to address specifically the impact of kindergarten on public education.

The Department of Education stands in opposition of this bill HB 631 for the following reasons:

- This decision impacts access to public education for thousands of children. The current enrollment for Kindergarten in New Hampshire is 11,969.
- Principals reported approximately 30% of our Kindergarten students in September 2010 were unprepared for the school day and activities typical of a Kindergarten classroom.
- Kindergarten has direct instructional influence on third grade reading proficiency. Children who do not read proficiently at the end of third grade are 72% more likely to be in special education, represent a behavior problem, lose interest in school, have difficulty sustaining a job over time or are placed in corrections.
- 2.4% of the total statewide budget goes to corrections(reported by PEW Charitable Trust, 2009)

- From the Center of Juvenile Justice, students who are not reading at the 3rd grade proficiency level by third grade are more likely to enroll in the welfare system.
- Supporting Kindergarten supports children using education as a tool to reach achievement goals; reading and writing goals provide them with the instruction and cognitive opportunities to meet and perhaps, in some cases, surpass those goals, to aim for higher achievement.
- Our youngest citizens develop brain capacity at the fastest speed during the first nine years of life. Engagement, with a trained professional who initiates; literally puts into the instructional day diverse vocabulary, listens to children speak and then serves a question that requires a thoughtful response with connected speaking. The teacher waits for the child's return idea. Like a game of tennis, this serve and return, volley, is a regular part of the early childhood kindergarten day.
- A kindergarten child in public schools provides access to parents. Parents are receiving education, instructional tips to help their children at home and guidance on child development. Schools support parents. Our kindergarten parents are often young, in their twenties, raising young children. The support they receive from their local teachers supports them and their children.
- Federally sponsored early childhood programs provide services to over 1,850 children per year. Removing Kindergarten from their education creates a gap year that places the most vulnerable, at risk socioeconomically disadvantaged students further at risk.

Kindergarten is a grade level. Children who do not attend Kindergarten struggle throughout primary school because they start first grade a year behind. As a grade level, Kindergarten is a course of study with measurable outcomes. It is curricular with itemized expectation of what each child will be taught, just like fifth grade. Our public education system is a K-12 program.

The issues that support Kindergarten are:

1. Access to an equitable education and full grade level course of study
2. Education competency and standards; to achieve proficient reading/writing by third grade
3. Reading proficiency to engage students in their future and reduce high school dropout rates and reduce prison populations

Kindergarten in every public school addresses these three concerns. Allowing the funding for Kindergarten to be optional is a decision we'll all pay for, at a much higher rate, for much longer than one year.

An Invitation

8

Planting the Seeds for New Hampshire's Prosperity



Keynote
Rob Grunewald
Economist
Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis



New Hampshire
State and Community Policy Leader
Breakfast on Early Childhood:
*Building our Workforce and
Saving Taxpayer Dollars*

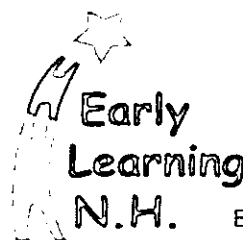
Thursday, February 24, 2011
8:00 to 9:45 a.m., Full breakfast served

Northeast Delta Dental Conference Center
Two Delta Drive, Concord, New Hampshire

This event is invitation only. To register and for more information
call 226.7900 or email info@earlylearningnh.org



Northeast Delta Dental



Early Learning Lasts a Lifetime

Starting Smart & Finishing Strong

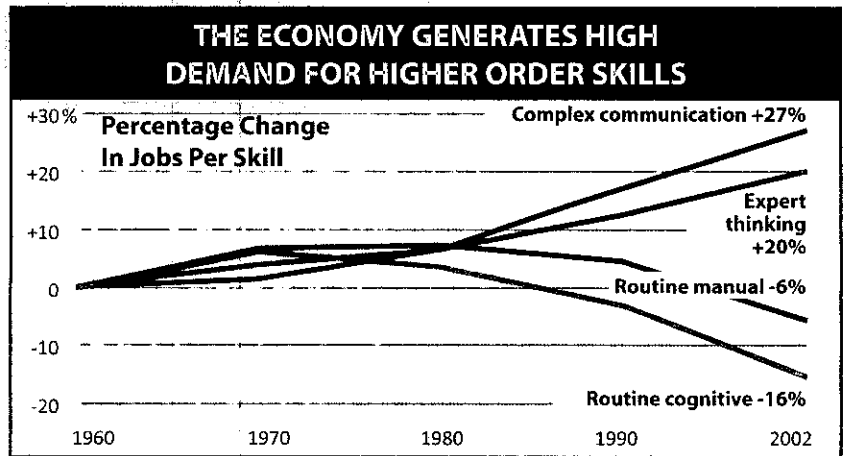


 ICW
INSTITUTE FOR A COMPETITIVE WORKFORCE

**Fixing the Cracks in America's Workforce Pipeline
Through Investments in Early Childhood Development**

Business has a clear economic stake in the future of our nation's children and should be an active partner in promoting policies that help young children succeed.

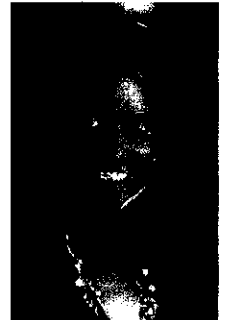
In a survey of U.S. Chamber of Commerce members, nine out of ten agreed that, to ensure the United States remains competitive with other high-achieving countries, we must raise academic expectations and performance.¹ Right now, 80 to 90 million American adults, about half of the workforce, do not have the basic education and communication skills required to acquire and advance in jobs.² To compete and win in this economy, we need a well-educated, team-capable and job-ready workforce. Investments in young children set tomorrow's employees on a trajectory to meet these demands.



SOURCE: David Autor, Frank Levy and Richard J. Murnane, "The Skill Content of Recent Technical Change: An Empirical Investigation." *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 118, 4 (November 2003) pp. 1279-1334. Data updated to 2002 by David Autor.

"Univision believes business should actively promote the value of investing in early education to prepare the country's 21st century workforce. Our education campaign 'Es El Momento' emphasizes the benefits of early education for young children to help them succeed in school and to help strengthen our economy."

Maelia Macin
Vice President & General Manager
Univision Communications, Inc.



Developing a Skilled, High-Performing Workforce

Test scores indicate that U.S. students are not on pace to become the workers we need.

- The majority of 4th or 8th graders are not proficient in both math and reading in any state.³
- Most children reading well below grade level at the end of 4th grade will not graduate from high school.⁴
- A 2006 survey of students in 30 developed countries found that U.S. 15-year-olds ranked 25th in math and 21st in science.⁵
- Only 25 percent of 17- to 24-year-olds would qualify to serve in the U.S. military. The rest cannot meet the physical, behavioral or educational standards for

service—standards that are similar to those many industries use in hiring.⁶

- 20 percent of U.S. workers are functionally illiterate.⁷

Reversing these trends requires starting early. The foundation of skills required to be successful in school, work and life is built in the youngest years—birth to age five.

Young children's brains develop 700 synapses—neural connections that transmit information and support learning—every second.⁸

Yet, too often we do not give our young children the early educational, health (including dental health) and social support they need.

"Quality pre-k is an important early childhood education and development issue, but it is also a critical workforce issue. That is why our Chamber supports these investments. We know that the return on today's investments in pre-k will be a stronger workforce in the future."

Dave Adkisson
President & CEO
Kentucky Chamber of Commerce



Early Action Pays Off Today and Tomorrow

As in business, investing early in our workforce pipeline ensures the best outcomes.

We can reverse current workforce and education trends. The research is clear: High-quality early childhood programs can have a significant short- and long-term impact on children's lifelong success and on our economy.

The savings start immediately. Giving young children a good start reduces health problems and grade retention and special education costs in the first few years of school.

In addition, because early childhood spending tends to be local, and child care and pre-kindergarten professionals generally spend rather than save most of their earnings, states generate roughly \$2 in new local spending for each federal child care dollar spent.⁹

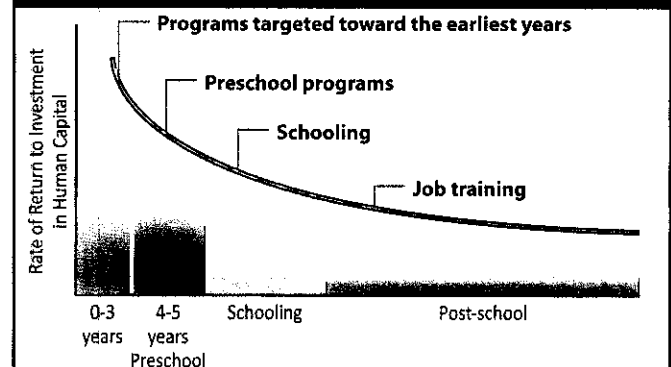
And benefits accrue over the long term. One study found that investing just \$6,692 in quality pre-k for at-risk children substantially improved outcomes such as **education levels, home ownership and salary** while reducing negative behaviors, including substance abuse and crime. The net result was a lifetime societal benefit of up to \$69,937—an ROI of greater than 10:1.¹⁰

For these reasons the Institute for a Competitive Workforce (ICW), a 501(c)3 nonprofit affiliate of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, recommends:

- ☑ Supporting and directing the expansion of **high-quality programs** to serve young children's development and learning, including state-funded pre-k delivered in a variety of settings such as schools, child care centers and homes and Head Start agencies, with public funding targeted to low-income children first.
- ☑ Ensuring that early childhood educators have the **skills and knowledge** necessary to do the job right.
- ☑ **Supporting parental choice** by developing a mix of public, private and nonprofit programs that can meet a variety of needs.

- ☑ Integrating the delivery of **health and education services** to children from before birth to age five.
- ☑ Making the **best use of existing resources** by coordinating local, state and federal efforts.

RATES OF RETURN TO HUMAN CAPITAL INVESTMENT AT DIFFERENT AGES



SOURCE: J.J. Heckman, "Skill formation and the economics of investing in disadvantaged children." *Science*, 312(5782):1900-2, (June 2006).

- ☑ **Integrating and aligning** early learning programs with elementary and secondary schools to create a seamless and efficient education system.
- ☑ Increasing the availability of **quality child care programs** that cover parents' full work day.
- ☑ Building an **evidence-based case** for change by collecting data and conducting the research needed to identify best practices, assess systems performance and report results to the public.



"Investing in the earliest years of life is the first step in preparing a workforce that can meet the demands of the 21st century."

Ann Cramer
Director, Americas
IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs

"Alabama has one of the nation's highest quality pre-k programs. The Business Council has made keeping it that way a top priority. If we want to ensure a bright future for our companies, one of the most important investments the business community can make is in advocating for policies that fix the cracks in our workforce pipeline. That means starting at the very beginning with high-quality early childhood development programs. When children start life off on the right foot, our entire society reaps the rewards."

William J. Canary
President & CEO
Business Council of Alabama



Take Action

Join ICW, the Partnership for America's Economic Success at the Pew Center on the States and national business organizations, such as the Manufacturing Institute and the Society for Human Resource Management, in advocating for policies that maximize returns on investments in early childhood education.

Four Steps Business Leaders Can Take toward a More Productive Workforce and a Stronger Economy

- 1. Spread the Word:** Host events, talk to your employees, start a blog, write an article and share information with other business leaders.
- 2. Make the Economic Case:** Encourage business organizations to support early learning as part of their policy agendas.
- 3. Take a Stand:** Tell policy makers that the future of your business and our communities requires investments in quality early childhood development to fix our failing workforce pipeline now.
- 4. Lead by Example:** Adopt policies in your business that support working families.

Institute for a Competitive Workforce
Tel: 202-463-5525
e-mail: ICW@uschamber.com
web: icw.uschamber.com

Partnership for America's Economic Success
Tel: 202-552-2000
e-mail: info@partnershipforsuccess.org
web: www.PartnershipforSuccess.org

¹ Education Reform: Insight into the Business Community's Views About the U.S. Education System. (2006). Retrieved from http://www.uschamber.com/NR/rdonlyres/enau5qwsrm2qslp44krtoyjy4dofbndfxcv4gkubcuivontrh5wn4tk33qblbkftqxsaitnuyojgb6b4dggjnh56h/061213nclb_exec_report.pdf

² Reach Higher, America: Overcoming Crisis in the U.S. Workforce. (2008) Report of the National Commission Adult Literacy. Council for Advancement of Adult Literacy

³ The National Assessment of Educational Progress. (2009). The nation's report card. Retrieved from <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/2010/section2/table-mat-3.asp> and <http://nces.ed.gov/programs/coe/2010/section2/table-rd2-3.asp>

⁴ Madden, N. A., Slavin, R. E., Karweit, N. L., Dolan, L. J., & Wasik, B. A. (1993). Success for all: Longitudinal effects of a restructuring program for inner-city elementary schools. *American Educational Research Journal*, 30, 123-148.

⁵ Baldi, S., Jin, Y., Skemer, M., Green, P. J., & Herget, D. (2007). Highlights from PISA 2006. Performance of U.S. 15-year-old students in science and mathematics literacy in an international context [NCES 2008-016]. Washington, DC: National Center for Education

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⁸ Shonkoff, J. (2009, April 27). The science of early childhood development and the foundations of prosperity PowerPoint presented at the Pennsylvania Business Leader Summit on Early Childhood Investment, Harrisburg, PA.

⁹ Warner, M. (2009) Child care multipliers. Stimulus for the states. Ithaca, NY: Cornell Cooperative Extension.

¹⁰ Reynolds, A., Temple, J., Robertson, D., & Mann, E. (2002). Age 21 cost-benefit analysis of the Title 1 Chicago child-parent centers. *Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis*, 24, 267-303.



MISSION: READINESS MILITARY LEADERS FOR KIDS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: November 5, 2009

Media Contact: Ted Eismeier

Cell: 315-335-9222, E-mail: ted@missionreadiness.org

Over 100,000 Young People in New Hampshire Unable To Join Military

Education Secretary Duncan, former NATO Supreme Commander General Wesley Clark, retired admirals and generals say early learning key to reverse security threat

WASHINGTON, D.C. (November 5, 2009) -- According to a new report, 75 percent of young people ages 17 to 24 are unable to enlist in the military because they fail to graduate high school, have a criminal record, or are physically unfit. In New Hampshire, that would mean over 100,000 young adults. New Hampshire is doing somewhat better than the national average. However, New Hampshire still has 18 percent of its students not graduating on time, 29 percent of its young people ages 10-17 overweight or obese, and one in every 88 adults on probation, in jail, in prison, or on parole.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan, former NATO Supreme Commander General Wesley Clark, and some of America's top retired admirals, generals and other military leaders called today for immediate action to address this threat to America's national security.

General Clark, Major General James A. Kelley (USA, Ret.), Major General James W. Comstock (USA, Ret.), Brigadier General John W. Douglass (USAF, Ret.), Rear Admiral James Barnett (USN, Ret.), former Under Secretary of the Army Joe Reeder and Secretary Duncan called for greater investment in high-quality early learning programs to ensure more young people graduate from high school, obey the law and have the option of military service if they choose that path.

The retired military brass are members of a new organization called MISSION: READINESS, led by nearly 90 retired military leaders, including two former Chairmen of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Hugh Shelton (ret.) and General Shalikashvili (ret.), and six other four-star generals and admirals. The group supports policies to help young people get the right start so they are prepared to succeed in life.

"According to the new report from our organization, Mission: Readiness, 75 percent of young Americans are unable to serve in the military. These are the same young people we depend on to serve in times of need and ultimately protect this nation," Gen. Clark said. "Support for high-quality early education will help ensure that more young people are on track for successful careers, including military service. Congress is currently considering the Early Learning Challenge Fund and must pass it so states can provide more children with this essential opportunity for learning."

Secretary Duncan said that the support of retired military brass demonstrates how important early childhood development is for the country.

"I am proud to be joining these senior retired admirals and generals who have served our nation with courage and distinction," Secretary Duncan said. "We know that investing in high quality early learning programs helps more young children enter school with the skills they need to be successful. That is why this administration has proposed a new investment in early childhood development through the Early Learning Challenge Fund."

(more)

MISSION: READINESS is the nonprofit, bi-partisan organization of senior retired military leaders ensuring continued American security and prosperity into the 21st century by calling for smart investments in the next generation of American children.

1212 New York Avenue NW, Suite 300
Washington, DC 20005
202.464.5224
MissionReadiness.org

Major General Comstock said that he believes the early education of young children should be an area of bipartisan agreement.

"I'm a lifelong political conservative, and I believe that government should intervene on a limited and targeted basis," Major General Comstock said. "Early education is not conservative common sense or liberal common sense—it's just plain common sense. Reaching the most at-risk kids helps increase graduation rates and cut crime, so early education is a matter of national security."

While the military is currently meeting recruitment goals due in part to the severe economic recession, the retired leaders said the challenge of finding quality recruits will return when the economy recovers.

"The armed services are meeting recruitment targets in 2009, but those of us who have served in command roles are worried about the trends we see. Our national security in the year 2030 is absolutely dependent on what's going on in pre-kindergarten today. We urge Congress to take action on this issue this year," Rear Admiral Barnett said.

The retired admirals and generals cited evidence from prominent research studies showing that children who benefit from early childhood education are significantly more likely to graduate from high school and avoid crime as adults.

For several decades, researchers followed children who attended Chicago's Child-Parent Center (CPC) early education program. By the age of 18, children left out of the program were 70 percent more likely to be arrested for a violent crime than those who attended. By age 20, participants in the early education program were 29 percent more likely to have graduated from high school.

"Commanders in the field have to trust that our soldiers will respect authority, work within the rules and know the difference between right and wrong," Maj. Gen. Kelley said. "Early learning opportunities help instill the qualities that make better citizens, better workers and better candidates for uniformed service."

Many states have made substantial progress in providing early education services to young children. However, more than half of all states are reaching only 30 percent or less of their four-year-old children through state and federal programs. Ten states serve 20 percent or less of the four-year-olds in their state. Nationally, the federally-funded preschool program Head Start serves only half of at-risk kids, and Early Head Start serves less than five percent of infants and toddlers from eligible low-income families.

"The role of an admiral or a general is to look over the horizon, identify future problems and pinpoint the best way to overcome these challenges," Brig. Gen. Douglass said. "The research shows today's kids need early education, so let's put that into practice now."

Congress is now considering a new initiative, the Early Learning Challenge Fund, designed to help states provide more at-risk kids with access to quality early learning programs. The proposal will provide grants to the states of \$1 billion a year for up to ten years to improve the quality of early childhood development programs and expand access to more at-risk kids. The U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill in September that included support for the Early Learning Challenge Fund, and it is awaiting deliberation in the Senate.

"Imagine ten young people walking into a recruiter's office and seven of them getting turned away. We cannot allow today's dropout crisis to become a national security crisis," former Under Secretary of the Army Joe Reeder said. "Starting with early education will make sure young people have a foundation that will prepare them for whatever path they choose, including the defense of our nation."

The military brass called on members of the U.S. Senate to pass legislation supporting the early learning proposal, so more young people will succeed in school, obey the law and become contributing members of the community.

"The most important asset we have for our national defense is our men and women in uniform. To be successful in their careers, in or out of the military, young people need to get a strong start in life," said Amy Dawson Taggart, national director for MISSION: READINESS. "The question is not whether we can afford to invest in high-quality early education. The real question is—can we afford not to?"

###

LEGISLATIVE TESTIMONY

TO: EDUCATION COMMITTEE, NH HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
FROM: KELLY A. LAFLAMME
SUBJECT: OPPOSITION TO HOUSE BILL 631
DATE: 2/8/2011

**NH'S FUTURE DEPENDS ON ALL
CHILDREN BEING READY TO LEARN**

Several years ago, NH finally joined the rest of the nation in offering kindergarten to children no matter what school district they live in. House Bill 631 would undo this significant step toward a brighter future for many children in New Hampshire. This bill is dangerous and should be voted inexpedient to legislate. It is a matter of saving a relatively few dollars today while wasting an opportunity to invest in our future. It's a penny wise-pound foolish policy.

As the mother of two young children, Luke aged 5 and Molly aged 3, I am keenly aware of the importance of early childhood nurturing and education. Last year, my husband David and I spent nearly \$24,000 on accredited child care for our children. We did this because we have read the literature and we know that good early childhood education not only keeps kids safe while their parents work all day, but more importantly nurturing their curiosity for learning and their thirst for answers to the question WHY at this early age will increase their chances of being ready to read and ready to learn by the time they step into first grade. It will increase their likelihood that they will perform well on NECAPs in grade 3 and continue to perform well in middle school and successfully complete high school, go to college and be healthy and productive adults.

We were able to do this because A) we were fortunate enough to have the random luck of being selected from the waiting list and B) because we both have good jobs with good benefits that enable us to afford to give our children the good educational start every child needs.

But not every family is as lucky as ours. Not every family makes it to the top of the waiting list. Not every family has the ability, quite frankly the luxury, of spending \$24,000 on educating their youngest children.

When every school district in New Hampshire offers universal access to kindergarten for all children, the playing field is a bit more even. It doesn't matter if a child comes from a family of means or a family hit hard by the economic downturn - each child gets an equal opportunity to develop the skills they need to be ready to learn in first grade. They learn the important skills of cooperation, self-discipline, listening and following directions, trying new things, waiting their turn, teamwork, and other skills needed to be successful in school and life. And when kids are ready to learn they do better, their classmates do better and in the end we all do better.

Just ask a teacher – he or she will tell you the difference between a child who participated in kindergarten and one who did not. My sister in law teaches 2nd grade and every year she plays catch up with kids who did not enter school ready to learn.

So often I hear legislators in NH and our representatives in Congress say – it is wrong to pass this tax bill onto our children. Isn't that what this proposed legislation does?

Dr. James Heckman, Nobel Laureate economist has found that when we invest in early education the return can run between 10 and 18 percent. If my retirement funds had a return like that – I'd be happy.

Dr. Heckman says it best when he says, "It is a natural reaction to cut spending when faced with a budget deficit. Make no mistake, reducing spending in some areas is necessary and warranted. However, when one has dug themselves into a hole, the solution is not to stop digging, -- as much as to start digging the hand and toe holds that facilitate climbing out." Investing in early childhood education – assuring access to kindergarten for all children – is the hand and toe hold this situation calls for.

Given the global economy and increasing competition, now more than ever opting out of universal kindergarten is a dangerous step for New Hampshire. Now more than ever we need to invest in our children and invest in our future.

I urge this committee to vote HB 631 Inexpedient to Legislate.

Respectfully submitted,



Mrs. Kelly A. Laflamme, MPA, BA
45 Summer Street, Penacook, NH 03303
Cell: 603-568-8661

Voting Sheets

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 631-FN-L

BILL TITLE: repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

DATE: 2/10/11

LOB ROOM: 207

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep. OLS Document #:

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Boehm

Seconded by Rep. Brosseau

Vote: 12-3 (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE: No

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Rick Ladd, Clerk

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

EXECUTIVE SESSION on HB 631-FN-L

BILL TITLE: repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

DATE: 2-10-2011

LOB ROOM:

Amendments:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

Sponsor: Rep.

OLS Document #:

None

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep. Boehm

Seconded by Rep. Brosseau

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.) 12-3

Motions: OTP, OTP/A, ITL, Interim Study (Please circle one.)

Moved by Rep.

Seconded by Rep.

Vote: (Please attach record of roll call vote.)

CONSENT CALENDAR VOTE:

(Vote to place on Consent Calendar must be unanimous.)

Statement of Intent: Refer to Committee Report

Respectfully submitted,


Rep. Rick Ladd, Clerk

EDUCATION

Bill #: 631 Title: Kindergarten

PH Date: 2 / 8 / 2011

Exec Session Date: 2 / 10 / 2011

Motion: ITL Boehm / Brosseau

Amendment #: None

MEMBER	YEAS	NAYS
Balboni, Michael A, Chairman	✓	
Boehm, Ralph G, V Chairman	✓	
Hutchinson, Karen K	absent	
Ladd, Rick M	✓	
Fleck, Joseph W	✓	
St. Cyr, Jeffrey L	✓	
Brosseau, Charles J	✓	
Greemore, Robert H	✓	
Hill, Gregory		✓
Hoell, J.R.		✓
Jones, Laura M		✓
Lauer-Rago, Kathleen A	✓	
Pitre, Joseph A	absent	
Gile, Mary Stuart	✓	
Shaw, Barbara E	✓	
Gorman, Mary J	✓	
Frazer, June M	✓	
TOTAL VOTE:	12	3

Committee Report

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 15, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The Committee on EDUCATION to which was referred

HB631-FN-L,

AN ACT repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten. Having considered the same, report the same with the following

Resolution: RESOLVED, That it is INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Ralph G Boehm

FOR THE COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	EDUCATION
Bill Number:	HB631-FN-L
Title:	repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.
Date:	February 15, 2011
Consent Calendar:	NO
Recommendation:	INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill was introduced because of the questionable constitutional mandate of a couple of years ago. However, since every school district now has kindergarten, this bill would be superfluous.

Vote 12-3.

Rep. Ralph G Boehm
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

EDUCATION

HB631-FN-L, repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.
INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Ralph G Boehm for EDUCATION. This bill was introduced because of the questionable constitutional mandate of a couple of years ago. However, since every school district now has kindergarten, this bill would be superfluous. **Vote 12-3.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HB 631 repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

This bill was introduced because of the questionable constitutional mandate of a couple of years ago. However, since every school district now has kindergarten, this bill would be superfluous.

Michael A. Baller

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: EDUCATION

BILL NUMBER: HB 631

TITLE: REPEALING THE REQUIREMENT THAT
ALL SCHOOL DISTRICTS OFFER PUBLIC KINDERGARTEN

DATE: 2/10/11 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO

- OUGHT TO PASS
 OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
 INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
 INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2nd year of biennium)

Amendment No.

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

THIS BILL WAS INTRODUCED BECAUSE OF
THE QUESTIONABLE CONSTITUTIONAL MANDATE
OF A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO. HOWEVER, SINCE
EVERY SCHOOL DISTRICT NOW HAS KINDERGARTEN
AND THIS BILL WOULD BE SUPERFLUOUS

COMMITTEE VOTE: 12-3

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

- Copy to Committee Bill File
- Use Another Report for Minority Report

Rep. Ralph G. Boehm
For the Committee

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Majority of the Committee on EDUCATION to
which was referred HB631-FN-L,**

**AN ACT repealing the requirement that all school
districts offer public kindergarten. Having considered
the same, report the same with the following**

**Resolution: RESOLVED, That it is INEXPEDIENT TO
LEGISLATE.**

Rep. Ralph G Boehm

FOR THE MAJORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MAJORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **EDUCATION**
Bill Number: **HB631-FN-L**
Title: **repealing the requirement that all school
districts offer public kindergarten.**
Date: **February 17, 2011**
Consent Calendar: **NO**
Recommendation: **INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill was introduced because of the questionable constitutional mandate of a couple of years ago. However, since every school district now has kindergarten, this bill would be superfluous.

Vote 12-3

Rep. Ralph G Boehm
FOR THE MAJORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

EDUCATION

HB631-FN-L, repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE.

Rep. Ralph G Boehm for the **Majority** of EDUCATION. This bill was introduced because of the questionable constitutional mandate of a couple of years ago. However, since every school district now has kindergarten, this bill would be superfluous. **Vote 12-3.**

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

HB 631 repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten.

This bill was introduced because of the questionable constitutional mandate of a couple of years ago. However, since every school district now has kindergarten, this bill would be superfluous.

REGULAR CALENDAR

February 17, 2011

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

**The Minority of the Committee on EDUCATION to
which was referred HB631-FN-L,**

**AN ACT repealing the requirement that all school
districts offer public kindergarten. Having considered
the same, and being unable to agree with the Majority,
report with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT
TO PASS.**

Rep. J.R. Hoell

FOR THE MINORITY OF THE COMMITTEE

**MINORITY
COMMITTEE REPORT**

Committee: **EDUCATION**
Bill Number: **HB631-FN-L**
Title: **repealing the requirement that all school
 districts offer public kindergarten.**
Date: **February 17, 2011**
Consent Calendar: **NO**
Recommendation: **OUGHT TO PASS**

STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill is not about eliminating kindergarten; this bill is about giving local control to the voters to determine how best to finance and educate the children residing in their district. The previous legislation (2008, SB530) specifically bypassed voter approval on creating and expanding school systems at the local level. The town of Hudson in 2009 voted 2046 to 1053 against spending the \$1.2 million on expanding their school system and went to court to oppose this statewide mandate. This bill removes this state mandate and restores back to local control, issues important to the voters regarding the education of the children in their district.

Rep. J.R. Hoell
FOR THE MINORITY

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

REGULAR CALENDAR

EDUCATION

HB631-FN-L, repealing the requirement that all school districts offer public kindergarten. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. J.R. Hoell for the **Minority** of EDUCATION. This bill is not about eliminating kindergarten; this bill is about giving local control to the voters to determine how best to finance and educate the children residing in their district. The previous legislation (2008, SB530) specifically bypassed voter approval on creating and expanding school systems at the local level. The town of Hudson in 2009 voted 2046 to 1053 against spending the \$1.2 million on expanding their school system and went to court to oppose this statewide mandate. This bill removes this state mandate and restores back to local control, issues important to the voters regarding the education of the children in their district.

Original: House Clerk
Cc: Committee Bill File

MINORITY REPORT

COMMITTEE: Education

BILL NUMBER: HB 631

TITLE: Repealing The Requirement That All School Districts Offer Public

DATE: 2/16/11 CONSENT CALENDAR: YES NO *Kindergarten*

- maRS* OUGHT TO PASS
- OUGHT TO PASS W/ AMENDMENT
- INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE
- INTERIM STUDY (Available only 2nd year of biennium)

Amendment No. _____

STATEMENT OF INTENT:

HB 631

This bill is not about eliminating kindergarten; this bill is about giving local control to the voters to determine how best to finance and educate the children residing in their district. The previous legislation (2008, SB530) specifically bypassed voter approval on creating and expanding school systems at the local level. The town of Hudson in 2009 voted 2046 to 1053 against spending the \$1.2 million on expanding their school system and went to court to oppose this statewide mandate. This bill removes this state mandate and restores back to local control, issues important to the voters regarding the education of the children in their district.

Milda L. Ballou

COMMITTEE VOTE: 12-3

• Copy to Committee Bill File

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

Rep. Hoell (*maRSalbono*)

For the Minority