



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

For Immediate Release:
January 23, 2012

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Sen. Forsythe supports School Choice

SB 372 to provide tax credits for businesses donating to educational scholarship funds

CONCORD - Saying it's all about freedom to choose, Sen. Jim Forsythe, R-Strafford, helped kick off *National School Choice Week* in New Hampshire at a news conference in Concord today. The event also gave lawmakers the opportunity to introduce two new pieces of legislation dedicated to enhancing a family's ability to access schools that best meet their children's educational needs, not just those located within their municipal boundaries.

Forsythe, who also serves as Vice-Chairman of the Senate Education Committee, is prime sponsor of SB 372 that seeks to provide a tax credit against the Business Profits Tax (BPT) or Business Enterprise Tax (BET) for any business that donates to a scholarship organization. These organizations can then fund scholarships with an average size of \$2,500 for a child to go to a private school or an out of district public school.

In supporting SB 372, Forsythe said, "School choice is a movement designed to unleash choice in education by giving parents the ability to choose the school that best meets their needs. One size does not fit all, and the school choice movement recognizes that each child is a unique individual. There are various forms of school choice programs- public school choice, public charter schools, vouchers and tax credits."

He added the program is designed to be revenue neutral to the state, or produce a slight savings. "This is achieved by requiring that a percentage of the scholarships be given to children currently in public schools, saving the state an average of \$4,100 per child in reduced adequacy aid payments since they would have chosen to leave their local public school. While towns would see a slightly lower adequacy payment in this case, they also have cost savings since they will have fewer children to educate," he said.

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