



New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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Senate Finance Committee makes big statements on budget *Increases funding for low income students and LCHIP*

CONCORD, NH – The Senate Finance Committee began the home stretch of its budget writing process today by voting to increase funding for higher education scholarships and preserving the LCHIP program, while rejecting efforts to create new bureaucracy.

Finance Chairman Chuck Morse, R-Salem, said, “I’m proud of the committee’s ability to weigh needs versus wants and find ways to fund worthy programs while rejecting other ideas not in the best interest of taxpayers. We took an important first step towards restoring nearly \$24 million for the UNIQUE scholarship program to help low-income students seeking higher education, a key priority.”

Finance Committee Vice-Chair Jeanie Forrester, R-Meredith, echoed those comments and also touched on the importance of preserving the Land and Community Heritage Program (LCHIP) by saying: “As a former Main Street Director in the Lakes Region, I saw how preservation based economic development can lead to stronger communities and job growth. The actions today by Senate Finance will ensure LCHIP is fully funded for the next two years and prevent the sort of budgeting gimmicks that have undercut the program’s efficiency in the past.”

Note: Senate Finance will reconvene at 10:00am on Tuesday, May 21st to continue its executive session.

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