



# New Hampshire State Senate **NEWS RELEASE**

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**Media Contact:**  
Carole Alfano, 271-7585  
[carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us](mailto:carole.alfano@leg.state.nh.us)

## **Sen. Bragdon Statement on the Committees of Conference for HB1 and HB 2**

*Senators Morse, Odell, Forrester and D'Allesandro to meet with House counterparts on budget*

CONCORD - Senate President Peter Bragdon issued the following statement today regarding the impending Committees of Conference on HB 1/HB 2 and the four senators he assigned to participate in budget negotiations with the House:

"Every budget cycle is filled with challenges and difficult choices; this one is no different. However, I am pleased the House and Senate are beginning the Committee of Conference process with budgets that are very similar. We agree on -- and both fund -- the important priorities for the state, including higher education, mental health services, and economic development. These are also Governor Hassan's top priorities.

"It's the Senate's hope that House members will not let their desire to increase spending get in the way of reasonable compromise that reflects our shared priorities. It would be truly unfortunate for the citizens of our state if we were forced into a continuing resolution. This would mean retaining our current funding levels, rather than benefitting from the modest increases we both agree on, just because some members of the House are committed to raising taxes."

"I am pleased to appoint Senators Chuck Morse (R-Salem), Bob Odell (R-Lempster), Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith) and Lou D'Allesandro (D-Manchester), to the Committees of Conference on HB 1 and HB2. They are all veterans of the budget process who I know will represent the Senate's perspective and work well with their counterparts in the House."

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