

# *State of New Hampshire*

## Senate

President Chuck Morse

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## House

Speaker Shawn Jasper

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### **Governor's plan unacceptable, Fiscal Committee leadership fights for retirees**

Concord, NH – The Joint Fiscal Committee met today to discuss Governor Hassan's proposal that seeks to increase the premium contributions made by state retirees receiving healthcare benefits. The Governor's proposal comes in response to an estimated shortfall of over \$10 million in the current biennium.

"The Governor's plan is unacceptable because it places a significant and unfair burden on our state's retirees. We have an obligation to protect retirees from the high increase in healthcare related costs while also funding this priority within the current budget," said Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem).

"The Governor needs to do her homework on this issue and find a sensible and attainable solution because we need to do better for our state's retirees," said Morse.

"The steps the Fiscal committee took today attempt to minimize the fiscal impact on state retirees and begin the process of minimizing costs to taxpayers by steering us away from a multimillion dollar deficit in the retiree health care program," said Representative Neal Kurk (R-Weare), Joint Fiscal Committee Chairman. "We still have work to do to ensure the system remains solvent, and we are looking forward to completing the necessary plan changes that will provide a long term solution at our next meeting. Our goal is to ensure that retirees can continue to rely on these benefits, and taxpayers aren't sent the bill."

"It is imperative that we develop and implement a long-term solution that addresses the projected retiree healthcare shortfall of approximately \$10 million in the current biennium without unfairly increasing costs for retirees living on a vulnerable fixed income," said Senator Jeanie Forrester (R-Meredith), Joint Fiscal Committee Vice Chair and Senate Finance Chair.

"The Governor lacks leadership and the ability to find and communicate a realistic solution that does not place the burden of higher healthcare costs on our retirees. The Governor's proposal would force seniors to pay higher deductibles, co pays, out of pocket expenses, and premium contributions for healthcare, which they did not expect and likely have not budgeted for. The Governor must continue to work towards a solvent, lasting solution that maintains healthcare benefits at the current cost to retirees, while living within the current state operating budget," Forrester added.

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