



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Morse concerned by Governor's spending priorities, lack of management

Concord, NH - Today, Senate President Chuck Morse (R-Salem) issued the following statement on reports recently released outlining the totals for the FY 18-19 Agency Budget Requests and the Governor's Priority requests, showing a \$1.4 billion dollar increasing in total spending.

"Under Governor Hassan's leadership, we have consistently seen irresponsible attempts to dramatically increase spending. Just two years ago, she proposed a budget that included a \$1 billion increase and \$100 million in higher fees and new taxes on smokers, drivers and business owners. Now she's outdone herself by proposing an even larger budget with a \$1.4 billion increase in total future spending.

"Such dramatic hikes can only be funded from significant fee increases and even new taxes on our hard working Granite Staters."

The new budget proposals released this week show many departments that failed to spend their FY 16 appropriations in critical programs. For example, the Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse, Prevention, Treatment and Recovery which has yet to deliver \$2 million of \$3 million to communities in need, and has requested \$9 million in the next budget. There is also \$4.1 million in unspent funds at the New Hampshire Hospital and \$3.7 million in unspent funds for the developmentally disabled."

"Had Governor Hassan complied with SB 32, which she signed into law requiring quarterly individual department spending reports, we would have already known about the delays in deploying funds and that many citizens are not getting the services they need."

"We clearly have our work cut out for us and will sit down with department heads, hear their concerns and needs and ensure our most vulnerable citizens' needs are addressed. But intend to do so without bankrupting the taxpayers who ultimately foot the bill. The state is finally seeing revenue increases and a stronger economy, now is not the time to disrupt the growth that is happening by burdening our citizens with higher taxes."

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