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Contact Name: Sara Persechino

Phone: (603) 271-3479

Email: Sara.Persechino@leg.state.nh.us

House and Senate Reach Compromise on Budget that Moves New Hampshire Forward

Spending Plan Prioritizes Education Funding, Municipal Aid, Mental Health, Opioid Epidemic, Children's Safety

CONCORD—Today, the New Hampshire House and Senate reached a state budget agreement at the conclusion of the Committee of Conference on HB 1 and HB 2.

“The budget is the most important piece of legislation the state considers—it impacts every single Granite Stater and is an expression of our state’s values. New Hampshire can be proud of the balanced budget crafted by the House and Senate which addresses the states most pressing issues,” said **Senate President Donna Soucy (D-Manchester)**. “This budget invests in mental health funding, addresses the opioid epidemic, and protects the safety and well-being of children while delivering much-needed and meaningful municipal aid through increased education funding and revenue redistribution—without implementing any new taxes. It’s a budget that enables us to continue moving New Hampshire forward and it deserves the full support of the House, the Senate, and the Governor.”

Speaker of the House Steve Shurtleff (D-Concord) added, “By stabilizing business taxes and implementing smart business tax reform, the House and Senate have built a budget that dedicates the greatest new state investment in local public schools in almost two decades and delivers critical unrestricted municipal aid. Together, these initiatives will allow towns, cities, and school districts to address growing burdens on local property taxpayers. I am grateful for the hard work and leadership of the House and Senate Finance committees this year; it’s time for Governor Sununu to join us to advance this balanced budget that provides every Granite Stater with the opportunity to build a good life.”

“In a negotiation, no one party gets everything they want. However, working together, lawmakers have built a budget that addresses the critical needs of New Hampshire while also addressing most of the concerns voiced by the governor,” stated **Senate Finance Chair Lou D’Allesandro (D-Manchester)**. “In a spirit of bipartisanship, we provided critical public education funding, removed the capital gains tax, stripped the implementation of paid family and medical leave insurance, fully fund the 10-year mental health plan, and construct a new Secure Psychiatric Unit. Simply put, this budget cannot be constructed without freezing business taxes. The governor is a reasonable, intelligent person and now he has an important decision to make.”

“The budget before us is fiscally responsible and tackles the most important issues facing our state. Instead of prioritizing handouts for a small group of big, out-of-state businesses, our budget ensures all businesses pay their fair share, so we can address the critical needs of the people of New Hampshire. This budget fully funds the Department of Children, Youth and Families, fully funds the 10-year mental health plan, fully funds the Developmental Disability wait list, provides \$40 million in municipal aid, and delivers \$138 million in increased education funding over current law. New Hampshire can’t wait for these critical funds—New Hampshire needs this budget now,” concluded **House Finance Chair Mary Jane Wallner (D-Concord)**.

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