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Senate Adopts Budget That Moves New Hampshire Forward

CONCORD—Today, the Senate voted 14-10 to adopt a Committee of Conference report on HB 1 and HB 2, regarding the state’s operating budget for Fiscal Year 2020-21.

“Working with our colleagues in the House, we’ve passed a balanced budget that invests in mental health funding, addresses the opioid epidemic, protects the safety and well-being of children, prioritizes public education, and delivers much-needed municipal aid to New Hampshire cities and towns,” said **Senate President Donna Soucy (D-Manchester)**. “In a negotiation, no one party gets everything they want. The House and Senate have listened to the governor’s concerns and made meaningful budget concessions because delivering a budget that moves New Hampshire forward is a bigger goal than any individual priority. Building a budget is about doing the most good for the most people – and that’s what this budget does.”

Senate Finance Chair Lou D’Allesandro (D-Manchester) added, “This budget does more for cities and towns than any budget in the last ten years. This progress is made possible because we stabilize business taxes, which are already the lowest in New England. In combination with smart business tax reform—conformity, market based sourcing, and single sales factor—the House and Senate built a fiscally responsible budget that addresses the critical needs of the people and businesses of New Hampshire. While the Legislature was willing to compromise to address the governor’s concerns, that spirit of bipartisanship and cooperation has not been reciprocated by the governor, whose veto threat over corporate handouts jeopardizes important services for 1.35 million Granite Staters.”

“House and Senate budget writers negotiated in good faith and addressed many of the governor’s budgetary concerns—but he keeps moving the goal post,” stated **Senate Majority Leader Dan Feltes (D-Concord)**. “He said he would veto a budget that closes the capital gains loophole. We took it out. He said he would veto a budget with paid family and medical leave insurance. We took it out. Now it appears Governor Sununu is willing to veto a budget that has no new taxes, fully funds child protection and services for children in crisis, fully funds the waitlist for people with developmental disabilities, and provides over \$200 million in property tax relief simply because the governor remains fixated on more giveaways for big, out-of-state businesses. New Hampshire deserves better than this reckless partisanship from Governor Sununu.”

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