



**THE GENERAL COURT
OF
NEW HAMPSHIRE**
Concord, NH 03301

His Excellency Christopher T. Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

April 7, 2020

Dear Governor Sununu,

Thank you for taking time to meet with us today. We appreciate and share your concern that when New Hampshire receives the federal stimulus funds at the end of this month, a rapid response will be necessary to get money into the hands of Granite Staters coping with the coronavirus pandemic. The Legislature is committed to an expedited, transparent, and open process.

We are pleased that the advisory committee you have outlined would complement an already established legislative process. The swiftest means of effectively and constitutionally spending federal stimulus funds is through the Joint Legislative Fiscal Committee. As you know, the Fiscal Committee is a bipartisan joint legislative committee which is designed especially to accept and expend federal funds and plays a crucial role during times of crisis like this. RSA 9:13-d expressly requires that the Fiscal Committee approve any expenditures during an emergency: "Should it be determined by the governor that a civil emergency exists, the governor may, with the advice and consent of the fiscal committee, authorize such expenditures, by any department or agency, as may be necessary to effectively deal with said civil emergency..."

The Fiscal Committee is committed to meeting as quickly and as often as necessary to accept and expend emergency appropriations so our constituents are provided with the critical relief and economic assurance they need and deserve.

Granite Staters are truly facing unprecedented challenges right now. Fortunately, as you have pointed out, our Congressional delegation has worked steadfastly to provide critical stimulus funds to New Hampshire. With this stimulus, we can shore up our health care institutions, provide support to our frontline workers, ensure cities and towns have the resources to combat this crisis, and help working families, small businesses, and nonprofits get back on their feet--without blowing a hole in our state budget or downshifting costs to local property taxpayers.

We share your commitment to ensuring that these federal stimulus funds are put into the hands of our citizens and communities as quickly as possible in an effort to curb the impact of COVID-19 in New Hampshire. That's why during this process we will continue to solicit the input of our constituents and those who have been greatly impacted by this pandemic. While New Hampshire awaits additional federal guidance and disbursement of these funds, Granite Staters will have an opportunity to share directly with elected officials and state agencies how these critical funds could be used to best fulfill their needs.

In an effort to continue the collaborative work of the Executive Branch and the Legislature, we will work through the advisory committee to consult with agencies prior to their submissions to the Fiscal Committee. We look forward to continuing to work with you to do what's in the best interest of the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Shurtleff /s/
Speaker of the House

Donna M. Soucy /s/
Senate President