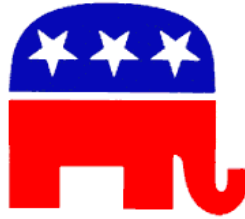


Republican Report

Government's first duty is to protect the people, not run their lives.

—Ronald Reagan



Volume 2, Issue 4

February 1, 2008

A message from the Republican Leader.....

The report of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Costing an Adequate Education released a report of its findings on Friday. The Majority proposal goes well beyond adequacy. The committee, created by the passage of HB 927, was clearly charged with defining an adequate education as “the specific criteria and substantive education program—defined and identified as the school approval standards” in nine specific areas. In doing so, the law adopted, in their entirety, more than 30 pages of the *Standards for Public School Approval* in existence on the effective date of the bill.

Our Republican colleagues Dave Hess and Ken Weyler represented House Republicans on the 10-person committee. According to Rep. Hess, “the express reference to those standards, in the context of the charge to the committee, evidenced clear legislative intent.” In the end, the Majority ignored this directive and, in many critical areas, substituted its own opinion for the standards, universally resulting in **increasing** and **inflating** the costs of an adequate education.

Republicans on the committee believe that the continuity in public policy and past definitions are very important in this effort to cost an adequate education.

The committee did agree that a number of the specific requirements set forth in the *Standards for Public School Approval* should be used in costing an adequate education:

- 1 The maximum class sizes for instruction purposes of 25 students per teacher in K-2, and 30 students per teacher in grades 3-12.
- 2 The mandated positions of teachers, principals, guidance counselors and library-media specialists.
- 3 Specialty teachers for the subjects of art, music, health and physical education.
- 4 A provision for professional development.

- 5 The obligation to provide a clean and healthy learning environment.

While there were elements of adequacy, bipartisan consensus on the disagreements within the committee appear to create a difference of more than \$200M between the statewide cost of adequacy based on the Majority’s assumptions as opposed to the standards espoused by the Minority. The most significant difference in this regard concerns the qualifications used to determine the salaries for the professional positions used in the formula.

The Majority elected to use the qualifications embodied in collective bargaining agreements negotiated by NEA-New Hampshire with local boards. This results in costing each position at a level three steps above the levels contained in the *Standards for Public School Approval*. “The Minority totally disagrees with this decision,” said Rep. Hess. “This level of competence is not set in any state law, administrative rule or Department of Education standard.”

We also disagree with the Majority over the appropriate funding levels for other elements of the costing formula, e.g., the per pupil allocations for educational materials, technology and transportation, targeted aid for free and reduced lunch recipients and special education students. In some categories, the Majority used dollar amounts far above what is supportable.

Not surprisingly, all members of the Committee Ma-
—continued on page 2

- February 6th
- February 13th
- February 20th

(all sessions-10:00 a.m.)

***Republican Caucus
9 a.m., Rms 305-07, LOB***

—continued from page one

majority were Democrats, while all members of the Minority were Republican!

I would like to give special thanks to both Dave and Ken for the long hours that they put into this project. They worked tirelessly throughout the fall with this committee and were always there to defend and protect the Republican principles and our traditional New Hampshire values.

Both Reps. Hess and Weyler will be available to answer any of your questions and bring our members up-to-date on the adequacy report at our next caucus (Wed., Feb. 6, 9AM, Rms 305-07,LOB), so I urge you all to attend. Please try and be there so that we may start the caucus promptly at 9AM.

While we appreciate the progress made on the first

day of session with regard to the workers compensation issue, there were still issues that need to be addressed for significant fixes to be made. In that regard, Republican leadership testified in favor of HB 1597 in front of the Labor committee this week and we hope that all members are willing to work on this important issue for our small businesses. Listed below are a number of other bills that Republican leadership has taken a position on. Have a great weekend and we will see you at the caucus.



Legislative Update

During the past week, leadership has signed-in, testified and taken a position on a number of bills being heard in committee. Here is a complete list of those bills:

Children & Family Law

HB 1490—adopting the uniform child custody jurisdiction and enforcement act. **(oppose)**

Education

HB 1224—relative to the definition of an adequate education. **(support)**

CACR 21—relating to local public education. Providing that the local political subdivision responsible for public education shall have the power to determine curriculum, set standards, and determine funding, and that the legislature may provide supplemental funding. **(support)**

Election Law

HB 1398—requiring that certain political contributions be made in cash. **(oppose)**

HB 1399—relative to the limit for political contributions. **(oppose)**

HB 1454—relative to electoral college electors. **(oppose)**

HB 1554—relative to challenges of voters. **(oppose)**

Executive Department & Administration

HB 1520—allowing service in the Peace Corps to be purchased as creditable service in the retirement system. **(oppose)**

HB 1548—relative to benefits for state employees who serve with a national guard unit or army reserve unit in Iraq or Afghanistan. **(support)**

Labor

HB 1597—relative to workers' compensation compliance. **(support)**

Legislative Administration

CACR 28—relating to compensation of members of the legislature. Providing that compensation of members of the legislature be increased to \$100 per week. **(oppose)**

Resources, Recreation & Development

HB 1349—relative to membership on the council on resources and development. **(oppose the Spang amendment #0087h)**

Transportation

HB 1604—relative to the electronic toll collection system. **(opposed)**

HB 1631—relative to the state purchase of biodiesel fuels. **(oppose)**