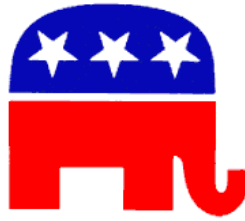


Republican Report

“The Democrats need hundreds of millions of dollars to support their 17.5% increase in spending and their revenue projections are much higher than economic forecasts will support.”—Rep. Norm Major, Apr. 11, 2007



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A message from the Republican Leader.....

Suddenly the deficit that was portrayed to be **\$50M** just a week ago by Governor Lynch has, almost overnight, grown to **\$138M!**—at least that’s what the House Ways & Means Committee is telling us after looking over revenue projections again this week. Maybe the Democrats will start listening to Rep. Norm Major, our Senior Policy Advisor for Ways & Means and the former committee chair, who has been warning of such a financial crisis for more than year.

Last year, when the economy was first being threatened, Rep. Major projected a deficit of \$100M, but his warning fell on deaf ears, both in the corner office and with the majority. Thanks to a deteriorating economy, that **\$100M** is now more like **\$200M**, according to Rep. Major.

The credit problems with the housing market have had a negative “domino” effect on the entire economy. People can no longer refinance; houses are not appreciating; home owners are not taking out equity loans and spending money that will keep the economy going; and not only are mortgages and commercial loans being defaulted, but so too are credit cards and auto loans.

The House Ways & Means committee has been forced into coming up with a figure that is more in line with reality simply because the governor’s agency department heads are telling them that the projections are at least \$150 off—and that’s without a recession! (*see table below*).

The House Ways & Means committee needs to

take the next step and recognize that the economy has taken a serious downturn. We are now eight months into a 24-month cycle. Many of the onetime purchases have already been processed and it is too late to cut or defer them. It is time now, more than ever, that we cut spending. The “Perfect Storm” predicted by Rep. Major months ago has arrived!

The House Judiciary committee voted this week to kill **HB 1495**, relative to parental notification. The vote was right down party lines, minus a Republican member who had asked that the vote to be delayed due to travel, but he was not given that courtesy. This is a disturbing vote, especially since the majority party last year stated that they would support a constitution-in-mind written bill. Rep. Wendelboe, the bill’s sponsor, based the language of this bill on the Pennsylvania *Casey* decision, which allowed for medical exceptions and judicial bypass, but this was not good enough for the majority.

It seems that the Democrats have rallied behind a senate bill that calls for involving a high school guidance counselor, rather than a parent, in the abortion procedure of underage children, which is still a slap in the face of NH parents. More than half the states in the US have either a consent or notification law on their books, believing that families are the cornerstone of a good society. It’s a shame that the majority party does not feel that way; we will ask the members of our caucus to overturn the report of **ITL on 1495** and support an motion of **OTP**.

I hope you all enjoy the break week. Our office will

be open and ready to assist you if you have any questions.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mike".

PROJECTED DEFICIT

Agency Revenue Projections (without Recession)	-\$150M
Agency Revenue Projections (with Recession)	-\$204M
Rep. Major’s Current Deficit Projection	-\$207M
Ways & Means Committee Revenue Adjustment (2/20/08)	-\$138M

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:

Fish & Game

HB 1648—relative to search and rescue response expenses of the fish and game department. **(support)**

State-Federal Relations

HR 24—petitioning Congress to commence impeachment procedures. **(oppose)**

HR 24

On Wednesday Rep. Hess testified against **HR 24**, a resolution petitioning Congress to commence impeachment proceedings against President Bush and Vice President Cheney. The hearing lasted over four hours and brought in many citizens (most of whom were from outside NH), and professional impeachment activists. The testimony was mainly one sided, but Rep. Hess systematically discredited every point addressed in the resolution. We have included few

highlights from Representative Hess' testimony:

"This resolution is the most inflammatory and vitriolic language in any piece of legislation I have seen in my 18 years in the NH legislature. It is an unnecessary petition, since Congress has already had a vote on impeachment proceedings and sent that measure back to committee for further study...the equivalent of our own Refer for Interim Study motion."

"This is impractical at best; the president has 11 months left to serve in office and history has shown (in the three cases where Congress has considered impeaching a president) that at least a year and a half has passed before proceedings actually began (after the initial articles were debated). And the fact is that as of January 3 of 2009, any action taken by this Congress will become null and void."

"This resolution addresses some specific points that represent the personal opinions and feelings of some, and in no way is it based on fact.....the resolution claims that the president ordered the Attorney General to violate the law, when in fact the president does not have the authority to tell the AG to violate his oath to the Constitution. It lays out a case that the United Nations charter was violated, yet neither the Security Council nor the General Assembly has ever issued resolutions stating that the United States violated their charter. It accuses the president of violating the rights of Americans through detention; the people being held with regard to acts against America are unlawful combatants, and will all be accorded judicial rights through tribunals that have been approved by Congress. And lastly, the statement about the president admitting to a 20 year war against terror is silly, the fact is he will be out office before six years have passed since its initial commencement, and we have been engaged in a war since we were attacked, a fact some apparently want to forget."



Special Election

On **March 11** there will be a special election for state representative in Hillsborough, District 7 (Goffstown & Weare) to fill the vacancy left with the passing of former Representative Bruce Hunter.

The Republican candidate is Gary Hopper, a former two-term representative who served in the House from 2000-04. To help us elect a fellow Republican, please call the House Republican Office at 271-3665, or the State Republican Party Headquarters at 225-9341. Any assistance you could give would be greatly appreciated.

For those of you who did not receive the news, the House this week suffered the loss of another colleague with the passing of Rep. Edgar Mears of Berlin on Wednesday. Our thoughts and prayers go out to his wife Lucy, his two daughters Lisa and Carol, as well as the entire Mears family. Ed was serving his 8th term in the House and he will be greatly missed.