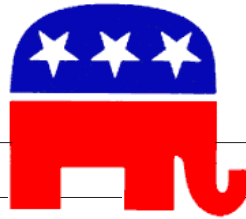


Republican Report

“Collecting more taxes than absolutely necessary is legalized robbery.”

—Calvin Coolidge



Volume 1, Issue 6

February 23, 2007

A message from the Republican Leader.....

I hope that you will all have an opportunity to enjoy the legislative break this week because we all face a tremendous workload when we return in March. Through our first three sessions this year we have dealt with about 50 bills on the consent calendar and another 16 on the regular calendar. In comparison, through three sessions a year ago at this time the House had already voted on more than 200 bills on the consent calendar and another 120 on the regular calendar. So, as you can see, we still have an enormous amount of work facing us this session.

It is important that Republicans make an effort to attend all committee hearings. With only eight members sitting on the committees, each Republican vote becomes extremely valuable during a public hearing, but especially when a bill is exec'd out of the committee. While attendance on session days is important, remember that the majority of the work is done in committee.

There is also a major misconception that many committee chairs are operating under, and that is the assumption that policy committees *cannot* discuss the dollar amount of any bill before them. I can assure you that this is wrong. The next time you are prohibited from asking a question about the finances of a piece of legislation, I would urge you to politely refer to our House rules. Nowhere in those rules (Black Book) is a policy committee prevented from looking into the financial impact of any

*“Republican Chats”
will resume on March 6
3:30 PM or after session
Upham-Walker House*

bill before it goes to either Ways & Means or Finance.

When a bill is passed on to Finance, for example, its members look at where the money will come from to pay for the appropriation. The policy committee has the duty, and every right, to amend a bill in any fashion before it is sent to one of the money committees. Given the backlog of bills in each committee, and the looming deadlines, it is understandable we are crunched for time. Regardless, this should not be an excuse for failing to explore all aspects and ramifications of a bill. We owe the citizens of New Hampshire a full and proper debate by all parties. In any case, I encourage you all to politely challenge any chair that is preventing you from questioning the financial impact of a bill. Remember, you should always be asking, “What does it cost” and “Where is the money coming from?”

Throughout the coming weeks the House will be voting on issues that are significant on a state-wide level and others that may only be hot-button issues on the local level. I would encourage all Republican members to build a strong relationship

—continued on page 2

—**Message** (continue from Page One)

with your local media by keeping them informed on issues that are important to your constituents. By building such a relationship, they will often call upon you when writing on important state-wide issues to see where you stand.

Letters to the Editor and *Opinion pieces* can both be excellent ways of getting your message to your constituents. I congratulate a number of our members who have taken the initiative in getting the word out to their local media outlets on important issues being addressed here in Concord.

I encourage you to call upon our staff for assistance with the media. Whether you need help with putting your thoughts to paper, assistance in contacting members of media or writing press releases on your legislative achievements, our office is there to work with you. Our strength in getting our message out now will benefit us in the long run.

The Taskforce on Adequacy continues to hold hearings throughout the state and there are still three more on the schedule. I call your attention to an additional hearing just added to the schedule (*see below*) on Tues., Feb. 27th in Conway.

The schedule for the House Finance public hearings on the budget has also been released. Once again, you should encourage your constitu-

ents who live in the areas where the public hearings are being held to attend. It is important that the members of the Finance Committee hear questions directly from taxpayers who have first hand knowledge of the success of local control and less government. Despite the change in majority at the State House, the people of this state still demand fiscal responsibility and conservatism. We need to make sure that their voices are heard at these public hearings. I would also encourage you to attend when one is held in your district.

Our *Republican Chats* will take a hiatus over the legislative break but will return on Tuesday, March 6th at 3:30 PM (or following the session) at the Upham Walker House. These informal get-togethers offer every member of our caucus a chance to bring forth issues of concern to the Republican leadership. However, also please know that our doors are always open to any member who has a concern at any time.

Enjoy your week off. The Republican Office will be open if you have any questions or concerns.

Mike

Taskforce on Adequacy PUBLIC HEARINGS

Tuesday, February 27 (6:30-8 PM) Conway Elementary School cafeteria, 160 Main St., Conway, NH

Monday, March 5 (6:30-8 PM)—Dover City Hall Auditorium, 268 Central Ave., Dover, NH



Monday, March 12 (6:30-8:PM)—Maple Avenue Elementary School, 210 Maple Ave., Claremont, NH

House Finance BUDGET PUBLIC HEARINGS

Monday, March 5 (4-7 PM), Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center Auditorium E and F, Lebanon.

Tuesday, March 6, (5-8 PM), Alumni Recital Hall, Redfern Arts Center, Keene State College, Keene.

Thursday, March 8, (4-7 PM), Rochester Community Center, Rochester.

Monday, March 12, (4-7 PM), PSNH Auditorium, Manchester.

Thursday, March 15, (4-7 PM) White Mountain Regional High School, Lancaster.

