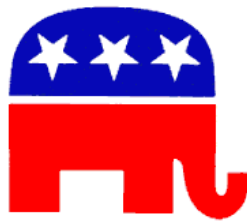


# Republican Report

*"All of us need to be reminded that the federal government did not create the states, the states created the federal government."* —Ronald Reagan



Volume 4, Issue 1

January 8, 2010

## *A message from the Republican Leader.....*

If the first few days of the new House session is any indication, it has become quite apparent that our friends across the aisle have long since forgotten their pledge of "transparency in government" that they touted when they took control of the legislature three years ago.

Actually, evidence that they fully intended to ignore the process that has successfully guided the legislature for hundreds of years first came to light two years ago when they changed the way the House was allowed to review revenue estimates. It not only threatened the system of checks and balances, but also prevented the legislature from playing its proper role in shaping the state budget. The legislative process only works when there is an open, free-flow of information. The people of New Hampshire are now paying the price.

During the budget negotiations, we also witnessed the "midnight addition" of two new taxes that were added to the budget without a public hearing—the campground tax and the LLC tax. As you know, we have since submitted legislation to repeal these two taxes.

Most recently, Democrats on the Joint Facilities committee ignored the process and brought forth and passed a policy banning "dangerous weapons" from the State House, Legislative Office Building and the Upham-Walker House. This item never appeared on the agenda and we were not given an opportunity to discuss the ramifications in a public hearing. We have made a formal request to have the issue revisited by the committee and we are still awaiting a response from Sen. Larsen. A request by Rep. Chandler to the Rules Committee for late entry of a bill dealing with the issue was ignored for nearly two

weeks, but a rules committee meeting has now been set for Monday, January 11.

Through their actions in the committee rooms and on the floor of the House, the Democrats have certainly set the tone for the rest of the session. We as Republicans must remain steadfast in opposition to any legislation that increases taxes or spending as well as serving as a watchdog for the process by which we govern.

### **HRVPAC Support**

The House Republican Victory PAC, in conjunction with the state party headquarters, has hired a person to work exclusively on House races for the November, 2010 elections. While it may appear early to many of you to be thinking about your decision whether to run for re-election or not, it is important that we get an idea of the numbers as soon as possible. We will be actively trying to fill the 400 slots on the ballot, while trying to avoid primary battles, and we cannot wait until June to see where we need to fill positions. So we would ask you to please let our office know as soon as you make your decision.

### **Letter to Congressional Delegation**

It is pretty evident from all the data that we have seen, that the Obama Health Care Plan is going to be disastrous for the state budget because of the impact on our ability to provide Medicaid coverage to patients. To that end, the Republican leadership in the State House sent a letter to our congressional delegation asking them to oppose the health care initiative when it came to a vote. Democratic leadership in the Senate and the governor were given an opportunity to sign-on to this letter and they refused.

As former governors of our state we had hoped that Senators Gregg and Shaheen would fully understand the impact on our budget. While we did not receive a response from Sen. Shaheen, we did hear from Sen. Gregg, who shares our concerns. In fact, his figures appear more dire than those provided to us initially. Under the pro-

### **Republican Caucuses**

**Wednesday, January 13, 9:00 a.m.**  
**—Rooms 305-307, LOB**

—continued on page 2



## Legislative Update

It has been our intention from the very beginning to oppose only bills that will have a profound social or economic cost to the citizens of New Hampshire—and we have tried to be consistent in that opposition. It may appear some weeks that we oppose more bills

than we support, however this will balance out over the course of the full session. Here is a list of the bills that leadership has signed-in, testified and/or taken a position on a while in committee this week:

### Commerce

**HB 1547-FN**—relative to the use of consumer discount cards. (**Opposed**)

**HB 1558**—prohibiting the sale of certain energy drinks to minors. (**Opposed**)

**HB 1340**—relative to condominium liens for assessments. (**Supported**)

### Criminal Justice

**HB 1372**—establishing a commission to study the provision of RSA 570-A, the wiretapping and eavesdropping statute, and to study permitting a person to record a law enforcement officer in the course of such officer's official duties. (**Opposed**)

### Executive Departments and Administration

**HB 1350-FN**—establishing the salary for the position of director of security and training in the department of corrections. (**Opposed**)

**HB 1351-FN**—establishing the salary for the position of professional standards director in the department of corrections. (**Opposed**)

**HB 1482-FN**—upgrading the chief executive officer of the New Hampshire hospital, department of health and human services. (**Opposed**)

**HB 1569-FN**—establishing the salary for the position of director of community corrections in the department of corrections. (**Opposed**)

### Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs

**HB 1599-FN**—establishing an emergency mental health and developmental disabilities database within the division of state police. (**Opposed**)

### Labor

**HB 1614-FN**—relative to state employee whistleblower protection to be administered by the secretary of state. (**Opposed**)

**HB 1403**—relative to wrongful termination. (**Opposed**)

### —Message

*continued from page one*

posed legislation, Medicaid coverage would be extended to all residents who earn less than 133 percent of the federal poverty level—or \$29,300 for a family of four.

For New Hampshire, this would increase the number of Medicaid enrollees by 83,000, adding an estimated \$177 million to our state's financial commitments over the first six years of the proposed expansion. In a press conference late this week, Republican leadership in the State House called upon Gov. Lynch to urge the attorney general to join with the many attorneys general across the country to investigate a lawsuit regarding the special treatment Senator Nelson received for the state of Nebraska in the latest version of the federal healthcare legislation.

We have also learned that, in response to Republicans' concerns, Obama officials are urging Democratic governors to take to national and state television to outline the benefits for states in the legislation. We must continue to keep the pressure on both nationally and here in New Hampshire. So far, Gov. Lynch has remained silent and we need to hold his feet to the fire on this issue because of the disastrous impact on future state budgets.

I want to thank those of you who were able to attend the Republican caucus prior to the House session. These are important meetings that will give us a chance to discuss the important issues facing us on the floor that day. Our next caucus will start at 9 a.m. on January 13, prior to the session.