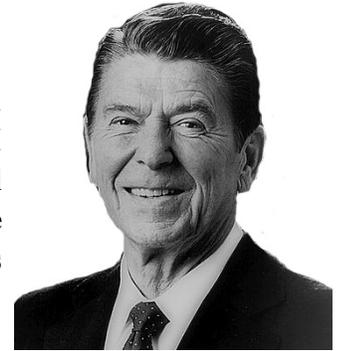


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

For April 20, 2005 House Session

The purpose of the House Republican Alliance is to preserve and strengthen the traditional principles and values of the Republican Party through the NH House of Representatives and throughout the state of NH, including fiscal restraint, personal freedom and responsibility, small government, free enterprise and strong families. We offer the following recommendations based on those principles, the Republican Party Platform and the NH and Federal Constitutions.



REGULAR CALENDAR

WAYS AND MEANS

HB 535-FN-A, increasing the tobacco tax. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 17-5

The party platform states “we reject higher taxes and excessive government spending with the belief that taxes unfairly erode earnings, contribute to the growth of government and provide disincentives for economic growth.” This bill raises the tobacco tax more than 52% in one shot, and opens the door to likely reductions in economic growth in our border communities.

Recommendation- Oppose OTP W/ Amendment then support ITL

FINANCE

HB 1-A, making appropriations for the expenses of certain departments of the state for fiscal years ending June 30, 2006, and June 30, 2007. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT . Vote 12-8.

To paraphrase Ben Franklin, When you assemble a number of people to have the advantage of their joint wisdom, you inevitably assemble with those people, all their prejudices, their passions, their errors of opinion, their local interest, and their selfish views. From such an assembly can a perfect production be expected? This bill has items in it we can support and some that we object to. However, the end result is a budget that falls well within a taxpayer bill of rights(TABOR) guideline. For that reason we recommend supporting the bill with the Finance Committee Amendment and oppose all other floor amendments.

Recommendation- Support OTP W/ Amendment

HB 2-FN-A, relative to state fees, funds, revenue and expenditures. OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT Vote 19-2. This bill places into statute the requirements to implement HB-1. However, it also includes the cigarette tax. Therefore, we support dividing the question and removing the cigarette tax. Watch for the Fran Wendelboe amendment to fund existing charter schools and support that too. There may be other amendments to watch and listen to carefully. **Recommendation- Support OTP W/ Amendment**

HB 616-FN-L, relative to the education property tax and the education equity tax. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 12-9. This bill as amended by the Finance Committee is significantly more favorable to the rich communities at the expense of the poor communities. We recommend opposing the Finance Committee Amendment.

House Republicans have consistently favored a targeted aid approach that takes into account the great disparity of need between communities across the state and funds them based on principle and not politics. The Carter /Campbell floor amendment most closely reflects this general approach to meeting the education needs of kids across the state. It sends more money to the property poor towns.

Recommendation- Oppose OTP to the Finance Committee Amendment, then support the Carter/Campbell floor amendment.

HB 691-FN-L, relative to the medicaid program. MAJORITY: OUGHT TO PASS WITH AMENDMENT. MINORITY: INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 13-9.

Republicans have always advocated personal responsibility and fair treatment. These are fundamental principles of the Republican Party. Medicaid never was intended to cover the expense of long-term nursing home care for people who have the financial means to pay for their own care, yet that is what it is becoming at the urging of tax consultants and attorneys. Most states allow seniors to keep some of their assets while qualifying for Medicaid. While the intent may have been noble, an entire "elder law" industry has emerged dedicated to hiding the assets of senior citizens or steering them to their relatives. This asset-shifting loophole robs the truly indigent of the money they need for medical care and has become a significant factor behind Medicaid inflation.

Recommendation- Support OTP/W amendment.

RONALD REAGAN QUOTES

Remarks at the Annual Convention of the National Conference of State Legislatures in Atlanta, Georgia 1981

“The constitutional concept of federalism recognizes and protects diversity. Today, federalism is one check that is out of balance as the diversity of the States has given way to the uniformity of Washington. And our task is to restore the constitutional symmetry between the central Government and the States and to reestablish the freedom and variety of federalism. In the process, we'll return the citizen to his rightful place in the scheme of our democracy, and that place is close to his government. We must never forget it. It is not the Federal Government or the States who retain the power -- the people retain the power. And I hope that you'll join me in strengthening the fabric of federalism. If the Federal Government is more responsive to the States, the States will be more responsive to the people, and that's the reason that you, as State legislators, and I, as President, are in office -- not to retain power but to serve the people.

That great commentator on America that so many of us have quoted in speeches, de Tocqueville, once wrote: “There is an amazing strength in the expression of the will of the people, and when it declares itself, even the imagination of those who wish to contest it is overawed.”

Well, de Tocqueville would still be awed by the will of the American people. As we've recently seen, even in our society of 225 million people scattered across an entire continent and complex in makeup, the people made their will known, and their elected representatives listened. This final investment in the power of the people -- this is the great drama, the great daring of the American experiment. It sparked our Revolution, it formed our Constitution.

Thomas Jefferson wrote, “I know of no safe depository of the ultimate powers of society but the people themselves.” And it was Jefferson who reminded us that against the invasion of the people's liberty, the only “true barriers . . . are the state governments.”

So today, fresh from our victories together, I ask you to join me in another great cause, another great revolution, and a great experiment. Our intention, again, is to renew the meaning of the Constitution. Our aim is to rescue from arbitrary authority the rights of the people. Together then, let us restore constitutional government. Let us renew and enrich the power and purpose of States and local communities and let us return to the people those rights and duties that are justly theirs.” *Ronald Reagan*

“If duties are too high, they lessen the consumption; the collection is eluded; and the product to the treasury is not so great as when they are confined within proper and moderate bounds. This forms a complete barrier against any material oppression of the citizens by taxes of this class, and is itself a natural limitation of the power of imposing them.” Alexander Hamilton

“TRUST BUT VERIFY”

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