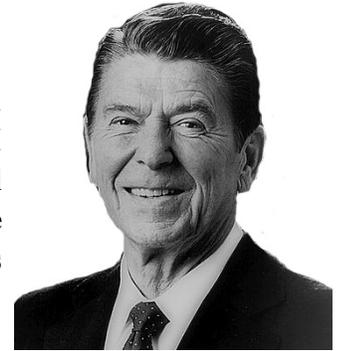


House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

For June 8, 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

COMMERCE

SB 125-FN, repealing health status and geographic location as small group rating factors, clarifying certain other issues relating to small group insurance, and establishing a reinsurance mechanism. MAJORITY: OTP Vote 12-8. **The Republican Party Platform states: "We will support efforts to draw insurance companies back to New Hampshire, thereby increasing the health care options available to New Hampshire citizens."** This bill will force insurers to take on risk that they are unaware of when bidding rates, drive most insurers out of the state and stop others from entering the state. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation- for 2002 N. H. had the highest insurance rates in the nation - despite having the healthiest residents and way before SB110 was enacted. This bill also implements a TAX to fund a reinsurance mechanism scheme. This TAX is to be paid by those businesses offering insurance. The NH Insurance Department did a peer reviewed actuarial study on the cost of the reinsurance mechanism and found that the cost of the tax would be \$18 million and can easily go up! This is a bad bill. Read the Minority Blurb. It says it all.

Recommendation- Support the Amendment If that fails Vote against OTP then for ITL

SB 196, requiring a hearing when medical malpractice insurance rates change. ITL Vote 16-2. **The Republican Party Platform States: "Working to prevent over-regulation of business."** As stated in the blurb, "The committee felt that there is currently no problem with the way these rates are filed." We agree that this bill will increase regulation and also increase costs of doing business in NH.

Recommendation -Support ITL

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS AND ADMINISTRATION

SB 170, revising the nurse practice act. OTP W/AMENDMENT. Vote 14-0.

No- Recommendation

FINANCE

SB 113-FN, relative to the use of federal funds for technology improvements within the department of employment security. OTP Vote 22-0

No -Recommendation

SB 146-FN-A-L, establishing a civil legal services fund consisting of court filing fee surcharges for the purpose of establishing and operating a New Hampshire Legal Assistance office in Nashua and to provide for additional staff in other New Hampshire Legal Assistance offices. MAJORITY: OTP Vote 19-3. **The Republican Party Platform supports limited government. This bill admits to growing government. The surcharge on court filing fees increases the cost to the average citizen to secure justice and needing to use the system. A "surcharge" is a tax is a tax is a tax and an unjust one at that.**

Recommendation- Oppose OTP then Support ITL

JUDICIARY

SB 214, relative to screening panels for medical injury claims. MAJORITY: OTP W/ AMENDMENT. Vote 12-6.

There has been enough misinformation and half-truths on this issue. The reality is that there is no proof-only theory that this bill and/or the amendment will reduce medical costs in N.H.. Listen to the debate.

No- Recommendation

RESOURCES, RECREATION AND DEVELOPMENT

SB 121, OTP W/ AMENDMENT Vote 11-0.

No-Recommendation

STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS

HR 16, requesting that the New Hampshire congressional delegation support optional Social Security personal retirement accounts. INEXPEDIENT TO LEGISLATE. Vote 7-4. **There may be a motion to recommit.**

Recommendation-Support motion to recommit

WAYS AND MEANS

SB 63-FN-A, establishing a court mediation fund to pay the costs of a mediation program in the district courts. MAJORITY: OTP Vote 13-4. **This bill raises the tax/filing fee for small claims actions to pay "professionals" to mediate small claims cases. As the minority states, the filing fee is being abused to provide for services other than straight forward clerical tasks and agree that such use is not consistent with the intent or purpose of filing fees. A tax is a tax is a tax.**

Recommendation-Oppose OTP then Support ITL

SB 91-FN, relative to an increase in the co-payment for participation in the animal population control program. MAJORITY: OTP. Vote 11-5. **We agree with the minority that this bill unfairly targets and taxes a captive audience-dog owners. Cat owners should bear a fairer burden of the expense of the program.**

Recommendation Oppose OTP Then Support ITL or Any Motion to Recommit.

RONALD REAGAN QUOTES

Remarks at a Luncheon for Members of the College of Physicians in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania April 1, 1987

When I hear of what goes on in the courts, it reminds me of the hypochondriac who was complaining to the doctor. He said, "My left arm hurts me and also my left foot and my back. And, oh, there's my hip and, yes, my neck." Well, the doctor muttered something to himself, sat the man down, had him cross his legs, tapped him there -- you know, that spot, with the little rubber hammer. He says, "How are you now?" The patient said, "Well, now my knee hurts, too." [Laughter] Sometimes it seems as though the courts are ready to award damages even to that man. Last year a jury awarded one woman a million dollars in damages. She'd claimed that a CAT scan had destroyed her psychic powers...

As a result, in some parts of the country, women haven't been able to find doctors to deliver their babies, and other medical services have become scarce and more expensive. This is both a State and Federal matter. When Secretary Bowen was Governor of Indiana, Indiana reformed its liability law. Two-thirds of the States, including Pennsylvania, have taken action since the beginning of 1986. It's time to make it 50, and for Congress to follow, too. We can debate the details, but doesn't it make sense, in effect, to give lawyers a Hippocratic oath so that they will, as you swear to do, "abstain from every voluntary act of mischief." Although I guess, for some lawyers -- and I emphasize some -- mischief is a compulsive act. [Laughter]

I've talked today about some of the challenges facing American medicine as we prepare for the 21st century. Sometimes it's easy, particularly on the cost issues, to turn to government for the answers. Yes, government has a role, but in the end, physicians are in charge of this operation. And just as a surgeon must decide when to call for the scalpel, clamps, and thread during an operation, you must decide when to call for the tools that will help you remove enlarged costs from the body of medicine. I heard from a panel in the college library today about bringing down costs by making better use of nurses and other health professionals.

Well, you must decide how and when to do this. A few negligent doctors can raise the health care and liability insurance costs for everyone. You must decide if medical societies will get tough on those guilty of negligence or of failing to conform to the ethical standards of medicine. As patients expect more from medicine, and as they pay more, they also want to know more about their choices. And you must decide how to get the information to them. As less expensive, simpler procedures come available, you must decide when to use them. In your hands is American medicine's great tradition of healing all in need regardless of their wealth.

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