

# HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE RECOMMENDATION SHEET



**"TRUST BUT VERIFY"**

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.

**THURSDAY, MAY 19**

## **HRA STATEMENT ON "CHRISTMAS TREE" BILLS**

Up to now, members have had the opportunity to review Senate changes to bills from their committee. Bills were either noticed in the Calendar as "2016 House Bills Amended by the Senate", or you were contacted by your Committee Chair to discuss changes made after the Calendar was published. We all had the opportunity to review the details before casting an informed vote.

As we approach the end of our legislative year, some amended bills will be coming before the House that are an amalgamation of unrelated language of bills from different committees. These "Christmas Tree" bills are not in the printed Calendar, nor have they been subject to informed debate by a group of the interested committee members. The HRA believes that this process is contradictory to the spirit of Part 1, Article 8 of the NH Constitution: "All power residing originally in, and being derived from, the people, all the magistrates and officers of government are their substitutes and agents, and at all times accountable to them. Government, therefore, should be open, accessible, accountable and responsive."

Consequently the HRA recommends members do not concur with such bills, but vote instead to request a Committee of Conference to allow the light of day to shine on the process.

<b>HB 280</b>	<b>HB 533</b>	<b>HB 636</b>	<b>HB 1144</b>	<b>HB 1182</b>	<b>HB 1271</b>
<b>HB 1298</b>	<b>HB 1396</b>	<b>HB 1396</b>	<b>HB 1404</b>	<b>HB 1503</b>	<b>HB 1527</b>
<b>HB 1608</b>	<b>HB 1644</b>	<b>HB 1660</b>	<b>HB 1695</b>		

**HRA Recommendation: Non-concur with Committee of Conference**

## **HOUSE BILLS AMENDED BY THE SENATE WITH GERMANE AMENDMENTS**

In many cases the Senate made a normal, reasonable amendment, often on quite innocuous bills. In these cases, the HRA recommends listening to the committee analysis, and voting your conscience.

<b>HB 197</b>	<b>HB 297</b>	<b>HB 378</b>	<b>HB 430</b>	<b>HB 1186</b>	<b>HB 1237</b>	<b>HB 1246</b>
<b>HB 1272</b>	<b>HB 1375</b>	<b>HB 1385</b>	<b>HB 1395</b>	<b>HB 1430</b>	<b>HB 1461</b>	<b>HB 1531</b>
<b>HB 1590</b>	<b>HB 1591</b>	<b>HB 1595</b>	<b>HB 1651</b>	<b>HB 1656</b>	<b>HB 1680</b>	<b>HB 1697</b>

**HRA Recommendation: Vote your conscience.**

## **HOUSE BILLS WITH SPECIFIC RECOMMENDATIONS**

**HB 512**, prohibiting confiscation of firearms, ammunition, or firearms accessories during a state of emergency.

**HRA Analysis:** The amendment is germane.

**HRA Recommendation: Support concur or committee of conference.**

**HB 1298, relative to damage to private property and relative to the authority of federal boarder patrol agents to make arrests in Coos county.**

**HRA Analysis:** The non-germane Senate amendment gives federal border patrol agents powers of arrest in Coos county. Part 1, Art 7 of the NH Constitution states: "The people of this State have the sole and exclusive right of governing themselves as a free, sovereign and independent State..." Why would we ever give federal agents the power of arrest over NH citizens?

**HRA Recommendation: Oppose Concur. Support Non-Concur, or Non-Concur with Committee of Conference**

**HB 1661, relative to conversion therapy seeking to change persons sexual orientation.**

**HRA Analysis:** The bill only permits counseling that would support a minor child's current gender identity, and prohibits practices or treatments for those under 18 that would retain their biological identity. Such language requires professional therapists or religious counselors to cut off any conversation that leads toward retaining biological identity. Parents who wish to use a neutral therapist to help their child deal with gender identity issues would be unable to find such a therapist in NH. The Platform: "Maintain the fundamental role and responsibility of both parents in the care, upbringing and discipline of their children."

**HRA Recommendation: Support Non-Concur with or without Committee of Conference. Oppose concur.**

**HB 2016, relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement program.**

**HRA Analysis:** The amendment is germane, and the rail study funding has stayed out.

**HRA Recommendation: No recommendation.**