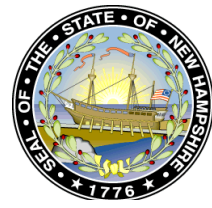


## NEW HAMPSHIRE HOUSE REPUBLICAN ALLIANCE



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**Contacts, HRA Co-chairs:**

**Representative Nancy Elliot – Tel. 424-4566; [nancy\\_elliott@elliott-controls.com](mailto:nancy_elliott@elliott-controls.com)**

**Representative Robert Mead – Tel. 673-3203; [meardr@comcast.net](mailto:meardr@comcast.net)**

**Representative William O'Brien – Tel. 673-0960; [WilliamLOBrien@gmail.com](mailto:WilliamLOBrien@gmail.com)**

### **Democratic Majority Rejects Plan for Balanced Representation on Legislative Committees**

Reformed-minded New Hampshire state representatives have noted over the years that many Legislative committees have come to be dominated by members from the very trades, professions, business and interests those committees regulate. The result has been legislation reflecting those narrow interests, rather than the needs of all citizens.

In working with other representatives to solve this problem through a proposed change to House Rule 28, Rep. Paul Ingretson (R – Grafton District 4) noted that, "While we know it is impossible to perfectly reflect a cross section of New Hampshire in each committee, we believe it is important that a particular mindset not dictate our laws."

There have been many examples over the years. Former law enforcement officials have dominated Criminal Justice committees, when all of us live under the criminal code. Labor committees have at times been composed almost entirely of union members and representatives. Teachers and administrators have dominated education committees. There are too many other examples.

The expertise and experience of these "interested" members are important and should be included. They should not be allowed, however, to dominate our legislative decisions and deliberations, for it is an ideal of representational government to engage many views. Legislative committees should not be an exception to that principle, especially considering the often-determinative effect of their recommendations on legislation. Rep. William O'Brien (R-Hillsborough District 4), another promoter of this effort, said, "We believe the interests of the people of New Hampshire are best served with representational government that is not abandoned when considering the makeup of House committees."

An amendment to House Rules that would assure a representative balance was introduced and debated today. Unfortunately, this reform met with strong opposition from the Democratic majority and was ultimately defeated.

The New Hampshire House Republican Alliance condemns the hypocrisy of those who praise democratic government in public and then suffocate it in legislative rules and prerogatives. House Democrats had a chance to reform New Hampshire government today, and they declined reform in favor of continuing to allow special interests to dominate legislative committees. The people of New Hampshire deserve better.

The NHHRA is comprised of members of the NH House of Representatives who strongly support the NH and US Constitutions and the NH Republican Party platform. For more information, visit [www.nhhra.org](http://www.nhhra.org) ###