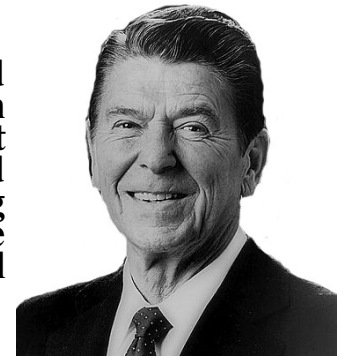


# House Republican Alliance Recommendation Sheet

**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.**



## APRIL 12, 2006 REGULAR CALENDAR

### EDUCATION

**SB 131-FN**, establishing a school choice certificate program. MAJ: OTPW/Amendment. **Vote 13-8** (13 Republicans to 7 Democrats 1 Republican) This bill is a voucher bill. The GOP platform strongly supports vouchers in that "Laws should be implemented to encourage school choice and competition and allow all parents to choose the best public, private, charter or home school program for their children and School vouchers or tuition tax credits should be made available to assist in school choice." We agree!! **Recommendation Support OTPW/Amendment.**

**SB 268**, raising the age of required attendance of children in school and establishing a 2-year pilot program for increasing vocational education opportunities in the Manchester and Nashua school districts and making an appropriation therefor. MAJORITY: OTP. MIN.: REFER FOR INTERIM STUDY. **Vote 11-10.** (7democrats-4 republicans to 10 Republicans) The GOP platform states: "Oppose actions that inhibit and/or supplant the role of parents in the care and upbringing of children" and "Local control of education policy and education funding creates the best-managed school systems." Further this bill is fiscally irresponsible in that it sets a mandate without first defining costs or funding.

The following points were given during testimony :

- RSA 193:1, IV already requires students to stay in school until the age of 18, and cannot drop out without parental consent
- Higher compulsory attendance age has not significantly reduced dropout rates in states that have implemented similar legislation.
- NH DOE information shows that dropout rates have been decreasing without this legislation
- Commissioner Tracy stated during testimony that " this bill will not reduce the dropout rate."
- NH School Administrators Assn Lobbyist "Legislation does not define or fund any efforts designed to identify and promote prevention activities or appropriate resources to create improved capacity to meet the increased demands of the law."
- Superintendent Greenberg stated during testimony that " Expectations without resources and planning are doomed to fail." This bill is "Frosting without the cake" and "more bureaucracy than delivery of services."

### **Recommendation Oppose OTP then support Tabling Refer For Interim Study or ITL**

**SB 306-FN-A**, establishing a quality early learning opportunity initiative and making an appropriation therefor. MAJ.: OTP. MIN.: ITL. **Vote 15-6.**

The GOP platform opposes " actions that inhibit and/or supplant the role of parents in the care and upbringing of children" This bill will make a parent choose between having a family member relative or friend provide daycare or go with a state approved state licensed daycare in order to follow the money. It is also fiscally irresponsible in that this new program will require approximately \$200,000 of the \$500,000 for start up costs. If there is money available, it would be better spent in already existing programs where less would be siphoned off by bureaucrats and more would go to the needy.

### **Recommendation Oppose OTP then Support ITL**

### **HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**SB 373-FN-A**, relative to a public health response to arbovirus. OTP W/ Amendment **Vote 15-0.**

**No Recommendation**

SB 399-FN, relative to the powers of state government in the event of a pandemic. OTP W/ Amendment Vote 15-0.  
**No Recommendation**

### **PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS**

HB 2006, relative to the state 10-year transportation improvement plan. OTP W/ Amendment Vote 16-0.  
**No Recommendation**

### **STATE FEDERAL RELATIONS AND VETERANS AFFAIRS**

SCR 6, urging Congress to support stem cell research. MAJ.: ITL. MIN.: OTP. **Vote 7-4.** The GOP platform states that we are for “Encouraging scientific research using adult and cord blood stem cells; opposing the use of embryonic stem cells; and supporting a comprehensive ban on human cloning, the creation of human embryos solely for experimentation, and the public funding thereof.”

**Recommendation: Support ITL**

### **From *A Deficit of Decency* Zell Miller .**

Because Johnny hasn't learned responsibility at home, the only remedy for him is more and more rules. America has become a whole nation of Johnnies. The only logical response to dwindling responsibility, safety, and order, unfortunately is more rules. You see, there's liberty and responsibility, or there's license and rules. Dwight R. Lee, an economist who once taught at the University of Georgia, has put it much better than I can.

*“There is no avoiding the fact that liberty will perish if the exercise of liberty is not tempered by an ethic of individual responsibility. The affirmation of this fact is the ethic responsibility of those of us who cherish liberty and understand the fragile foundation upon which it stands.”*

As we strive to keep America proud, strong, and free, we need to be asking the basic question of liberty. When standing at a crossroads where it becomes unclear how to respond to a new idea, proposal, or law, we must ask this simple but critical question: is it liberty or is it license. Does this build upon a sense of freedom and restraint that we know as liberty? Does it provide opportunity and require responsibility? Or does it depend upon a selfish sense of me, autonomy without consequence?

### **From *A Time for Choosing* Ronald Reagan**

We have so many people who can't see a fat man standing beside a thin one without coming to the conclusion that the fat man got that way by taking advantage of the thin one. So they are going to solve all the problems of human misery through government and government planning. Well, now, if government planning and welfare had the answer and they've had almost 30 years of it, shouldn't we expect government to almost read the score to us once in a while? Shouldn't they be telling us about the decline each year in the number of people needing help? The reduction in the need for public housing?

But the reverse is true. Each year the need grows greater, the program grows greater. We were told four years ago that 17 million people went to bed hungry each night. Well, that was probably true. They were all on a diet. But now we are told that 9.3 million families in this country are poverty-stricken on the basis of earning less than \$3,000 a year. Welfare spending is 10 times greater than in the dark depths of the Depression. We are spending \$45 billion on welfare. Now do a little arithmetic, and you will find that if we divided the \$45 billion up equally among those 9 million poor families, we would be able to give each family \$4,600 a year, and this added to their present income should eliminate poverty! Direct aid to the poor, however, is running only about \$600 per family. It would seem that someplace there must be some overhead.

So now we declare "war on poverty," or "you, too, can be a Bobby Baker!" Now, do they honestly expect us to believe that if we add \$1 billion to the \$45 million we are spending...one more program to the 30-odd we have--and remember, this new program doesn't replace any, it just duplicates existing programs--do they believe that poverty is suddenly going to disappear by magic? Well, in all fairness I should explain that there is one part of the new program that isn't duplicated. This is the youth feature. We are now going to solve the dropout problem, juvenile delinquency, by re-instituting something like the old CCC camps, and we are going to put our young people in camps, but again we do some arithmetic, and we find that we are going to spend each year just on room and board for each young person that we help \$4,700 a year! We can send them to Harvard for \$2,700! Don't get me wrong. I'm not suggesting that Harvard is the answer to juvenile delinquency.

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