

RELEASE: HOUSE REPUBLICANS KILL BILL TO ADDRESS SCHOOL FUNDING SHORTFALLS FOR UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

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Thu 5/20/2021 12:11 PM



New Hampshire House of Representatives Concord, New Hampshire House Democratic Office

PRESS RELEASE

Date: May 20, 2021

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HOUSE REPUBLICANS KILL BILL TO ADDRESS SCHOOL FUNDING SHORTFALLS FOR UPCOMING SCHOOL YEAR

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE - Today Republicans on the House Education Committee voted to retain SB 135, legislation that could have worked to address the anticipated \$45 million shortfall in education funding for the upcoming school year. After the party line vote, **Representatives Mel Myler (D-Hopkinton), Ranking Democrat on the committee, and David Luneau (D-Hopkinton), Deputy Ranking Democrat on the committee**, released the following statements:

“The Republican argument that we do not have enough time to consider fair education funding and property tax relief this year is nonsensical”, said **Representatives Mel Myler (D-Hopkinton)**. “Earlier this session, I requested a briefing to the Education Committee on the final report of the Commission to Study School Funding. That request was denied. The Commission’s report, which was adopted 16-1, proposes fundamental changes in how we fairly allocate school funding resources currently available. Adopting the Commission’s recommendations would alleviate disparities existing in our state which deny many students a fair opportunity for an equitable education.

Today, Republicans on the Education Committee told districts with disparities, ‘no problem - we don’t care.’ Bottom line, failing to pass SB 135 will raise property taxes on people throughout New Hampshire. This is an extremely disappointing day for New Hampshire taxpayers.”

Representative Dave Luneau added, “Schools cannot wait another year for this committee and the Republican Majority to decide it might be time to adequately fund them. The Commission to Study School Funding, which I chaired, provided all of the information, testimony, and motivation that anyone acting in good faith would need to act now to address this critical issue.

Failure to pass SB 135 today will result in a direct property tax increase to citizens throughout the state, disproportionately impacting those in property poor communities. The budget passed last month by the Republican majority fails to adequately direct funding toward the communities most in need and fails to provide meaningful property tax relief in property poor districts. To be clear, by killing SB 135 today, House Republicans are actively voting to raise property taxes across the state and to

continue to overburden our education system.”

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