

July 18, 2019

The Honorable Chris Sununu
Governor of New Hampshire
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

As leaders of cities and towns across the state, we wanted to write to you to express our concerns about your budget veto, and to urge you to accept the State House's compromise budget to continue to move our state and our communities forward.

We appreciate that our legislators in Concord worked for many months to secure \$200 million more for our communities in education funding and municipal aid, which could provide a much needed reprieve for New Hampshire residents who have taken on the burden of property taxes to make up for diminished state funding. When you vetoed everything from funding for substance use disorder treatment to investments in local education to municipal aid you left the people of New Hampshire wondering what will happen to services and programs they depend on, and left communities across the state unable to plan for their future.

Further, the State House passed a balanced budget that adds money to New Hampshire's rainy day fund at the end of the biennium. Your proposal on the other hand includes tax breaks for large corporations that result in a \$90 million revenue gap. To date, you have not detailed which programs you would cut to close the gap, and we fear you would rely on downshifting to our communities to pay for your proposed business tax breaks.

We need to have a budget now to make sure our communities have the resources they need for the year ahead. We are asking that you come to the negotiating table immediately, willing to accept legislators' compromise budget for the good of our communities.

Sincerely,

Jim Donchess, Mayor of Nashua

Paul Grenier, Mayor of Berlin

Dana Hilliard, Mayor of Somersworth

Caroline McCarley, Mayor of Rochester

Karen Weston, Mayor of Dover

Bill Barry, Manchester Alderman, Ward 10

Jill Brewer, Franconia Selectman

Gerri Cannon, member of the Somersworth School Board

Bettina Chadbourne, Keene City Councilor

Jonathan Cohen, member of the Hopkinton Budget Committee

Molly Cowan, Exeter Selectman

Paul Dargie, Milford Selectman

Katie Desrochers, member of the Manchester School Board, Ward 11

Michael Dowe, member of the Gilford Budget Committee

Norm Goupil, member of the Hopkinton School Board

Mitch Greenwald, Keene City Councilor

Karen Hatcher, Peterborough Selectman

Chris Herbert, Manchester Alderman, Ward 4

Sandy Keans, Rochester City Councilor

Sean Lewis, member of the Salem Budget Committee

Pat Long, member of the Manchester School Board, At-Large

Eric Meth, Franconia Selectman

Joe Pace, Kensington Selectman

Dorothy Piquado, member of the Gilford Budget Committee

Heather Raymond, President of the Nashua Board of Education

Valerie Scarborough, member of the Plymouth Advisory Budget Committee

Ken Traum, Hopkinton Selectman

Alejandro Urrutia, member of the Hudson Budget Committee

CC: Senate President Donna Soucy, House Speaker Steve Shurtleff