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Gov. Chris Sununu  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, N.H. 03301

Dear Governor Sununu:

This letter is to express my interest in serving on the New Hampshire State Board of Education. I know first-hand the opportunities a good public school education can offer to children who have no other options. I'd like to help create those opportunities for all of New Hampshire's students.

I often describe my educational background as the "scenic route", it was not the traditional K-12 experience. Growing up in New Orleans, I attended pre-K and elementary schools focused on math and science. My summers were supplemented with a contemporary art camp and music camp where I played violin and saxophone. From 7th to 8th grade, I attended a college preparatory charter school that ranked 2nd in educational performance in the state, while proudly playing defensive tackle on our 4A football team. My mother always ensured that my education was balanced across the arts, STEM subjects, and the social skills necessary for me to develop as a multi-dimensional learner and thinker.

In 2005, Hurricane Katrina changed the course of the lives of everyone in New Orleans. While we prepared evacuation bags, my mom packed my high school uniform and said, "I don't care where we end up, you are going to go to somebody's school and you will have a uniform.". I attended three different high schools across two different states during the remainder of my 8th-grade year. During this time, I lived in flux between a series of hotels with my mother and a two-bedroom house with nine of my immediate family members. I finished 8th grade at the only gifted and talented school in East Baton Rouge that offered STEM and college-prep classes. After relocating to our own apartment for my 9th-grade year, I graduated in 2009 from a high school that had more than 2,300 students. Throughout my K-12 journey, I learned how to learn despite adversities along the way.

In 2014, I graduated from Southern New Hampshire University via the College Unbound program. College Unbound was a 3-year experiential learning pilot program that merged traditional classroom education with real-world internships and deliverable-based project work. My bachelor's degree is in Integrated Studies, which is focused on understanding the connection between fields as opposed to concentrating on one siloed subject. In my current role as a Project Manager, I created the remote education portal for our clients and employees that allowed us to seamlessly pivot to remote work. In my professional life, I solve complex problems, using what Charlie Munger refers to as a "latticework of mental models".

I'm interested in serving on the State Board of Education because I'm passionate about aiding the next generation of lifelong learners. My mother literally read to me in the womb, and my life was profoundly shaped by the education I received, from kindergarten through SNHU. The opportunity to help create generations of lifelong learners ignites me. A comprehensive education lays the bricks with which the path to the American dream is built. I've spent my personal and professional careers analyzing systems and solving problems. I believe I can put this experience to work for the state to help New Hampshire build a second-to-none K-12 education system for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Ryan Terrell