

## **REPRESENTATIVES TO THE GENERAL COURT- 2014**

The 2014 legislative session that ended in June continued to make positive changes for the citizens of New Hampshire, help local town budgets, and make local government more efficient.

The legislature enacted protections for our citizens by addressing the issue of domestic violence. Under 'Joshua's Law' a crime of Domestic Violence was established that provided added protections for victims as well as added tools for law enforcement. Several other laws were passed including one I co-sponsored. RSA: 0238, placing household and domesticated animals under the domestic violence statute.

As a result of the passage of the bipartisan Medicaid expansion in 2013 session, tens of thousands of previously uninsured, hard working citizens are now enrolled in the New Hampshire Health Protection Plan. The State's Health Exchange now has 5 health insurance providers. This increase in insurance providers will offer market competition which is already lowering the cost of premiums. In addition, the legislature invested \$24 million to reverse crisis in mental health system and worked with hospitals to restore uncompensated care funding to state's hospitals and averts a major law suit.

Two important infrastructure bills supported by the Business and Industry Association became law. One looks toward future investments by establishing a 10 year transportation improvement program to develop a long term plan for investments in our roads and bridges. A four cents a gallon increase to the current road toll was passed that is estimated to result in an additional \$33 million annually. This increase will provide an estimated \$4 million per year funding for highway block grants to municipalities, as well as municipal bridge aid, monies for resurfacing and reconstructing secondary roads and the completion of the expansion of I-93 from the Massachusetts border to Manchester.

Often bills are proposed to help local government become more efficient. Examples of new laws to help local government are modifying the process for fill and dredging permits, forming a committee to study land conservation, and allowing the earlier counting of absentee ballots.

The 2015 legislature is facing some tough budget decisions. Fiscal stewardship is about ensuring that we make smart choices about how we spend each taxpayer dollar. We need to work towards long term planning and investments for the future of New Hampshire. We need to invest in education, job training, and address our energy needs. As I leave office, I want to thank you for this opportunity to serve in our citizen legislature. I have been honored to serve the hard working men, women, and children of Sullivan County as a State representative for the last two years.

Representative **Linda Taylor**