

## **STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT #9**

I am honored to be serving the communities of Cornish, Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee, and Unity in my third term as State Representative. I will be serving as the Clerk for the Education Committee and Assistant Majority Floor Leader.

Last term was very busy looking at some pressing issues for New Hampshire. We expanded full day Kindergarten using Keno receipts which provides inconsistent funding. After much discussion and political maneuvering, a bill to allow school vouchers was sent to interim study. The voucher system would have drained money from our public schools and raise local taxes. We passed a bill to include civics in our current curriculum standards. Several programs were initiated to help high school students develop a career path and gain some college credits while still in high school. Transgender protections were added to our State's non discrimination statue which will protect all our students. The discussion created by a bill I co-sponsored about the secure psychiatric unit,(SPU), presently located in the State Prison, has led to the State committing to much needed secure units outside of the prison. The result will be a suitable facility with treatment for people with mental illness rather than incarceration. Expanded Medicaid program was reauthorized which, along with the Governor's 'hub and spoke' initiative for accessing and providing treatment, will help address the opioid crisis.

This term will be a busy year with over 1,000 bills submitted. In this first year of the biennium the focus will be on budget and revenue streams. The Education Committee will have many issues to address with school funding being front and center. In the past decade downshifting of financing for many school programs from the State to the local property tax has resulted in great disparity in educational opportunity and has significantly increased local property taxes. There are many issues in the funding process that have to be discussed and addressed including per pupil adequacy, building aid, stabilization grants, special education funding, and fully funded kindergarten. At the higher education level funding for our University and Community College system needs to be addressed. We have one of the highest tuition costs resulting in the highest student loan debt in the country. The bottom line is revenue funding. The question is where will the State come up with the funds to meet the needs of local schools and communities and offer property tax relief.

Thank you for the opportunity to represent you in our state government. Please don't hesitate to get in touch with me with your comments, concerns, or questions.

Linda Tanner  
NH State Representative Sullivan District 9

## **STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT #1**

Following my election in the special election of 2017, I have been reelected to a full term in the New Hampshire House of Representatives. It is an honor and privilege to serve as the Representative to the four towns of this House District. I pledge to work my hardest to advocate for the residents of these towns and to be true to the principles that I ran on. I will be a dedicated supporter of quality education, economic development that helps workers, and a clean environment enhanced by renewable energy.

One of the hallmarks of the 2018 legislative session was the extension of Expanded Medicaid for five years. This will protect the medical coverage for over 50,000 New Hampshire residents. It also provides essential funding and support in the effort to end the opioid crisis. We need to find ways to make sure all residents of New Hampshire have access to healthcare. Expanded Medicaid brings us one step closer to that goal. The controversial SB 193 school voucher bill was defeated with a bipartisan vote in the New Hampshire House. If passed it would have siphoned tax dollars away from local public schools and channel the tax dollars to private, religious and home schools. Members from both parties recognized that this would have been constitutionally challenged and it would have involved local schools either cutting programs or raising property taxes to offset the lost revenue.

At the start of the 2019 session I was honored to be asked to serve as chair of the House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee. I have been enjoying the challenges related to leading a committee. One of those challenges will be holding hearings on three separate minimum wage bills. For many years, New Hampshire has followed the federal minimum wage which has sat at \$7.25 per hour since 2009. It seems likely that the Labor Committee will support a higher New Hampshire minimum wage. It is unclear exactly what will be the outcome after the House and Senate finish work on the issue. I hope the governor will support a higher minimum wage, I do.

Some bills that failed to pass last year are returning this session with better prospects. One of those is Paid Family Leave. This is an insurance program that is paid for by premiums deducted from payroll. Employers will then submit these premiums to the State along with workers compensation premiums. After an employee has been enrolled in the plan for 12 months, he or she will be eligible for 12 weeks of paid leave at 60% pay if the employee or a family member becomes sick or injured. This is a family and worker friendly benefit that will make New Hampshire an even better place to work and raise a family.

Another bill coming back this year is the repeal of the death penalty. This is an effort that some veteran legislators have been working on for decades. I have always opposed the death penalty simply because I feel that it is wrong for the State to use death as punishment, but after studying the issue more closely over the past year, I have become more convinced than ever that it is wrong for New Hampshire. I recently heard a woman speak who spent two years on death row in another state for being wrongly accused of killing her infant son. Our criminal justice system most often gets things right, but not always. We cannot allow someone to be executed by mistake. Having a convicted murderer on death row also causes great suffering for the family of the victim. Every time there is an appeal or other court hearing, the family must relive the tragic event. This goes on for years. Better to have the convict in prison for life with no parole and allow the family to process their grief and live their lives in relative peace. Finally, there is the cost factor. It is much less expensive to have a convict spend live in prison than to pay for the near endless legal costs associated with carrying out the death penalty. It is time for New Hampshire to replace the death penalty with life in prison without parole.

I am always happy to receive input from constituents, so please do not hesitate to contact me. [briansullivannh@gmail.com](mailto:briansullivannh@gmail.com)

Brian SullivanNH State Representative District 1