

## STATE REPRESENTATIVE DISTRICT #9

I am honored to serve my fourth term as State Representative for Sullivan County, District 9, serving the towns of Cornish, Croydon, Grantham, Newport, Plainfield, Springfield, Sunapee, and Unity. I will again be a member of the House Education Committee. At the County Level I will be a member of the Executive Finance Committee.

Last March when the Covid pandemic caused a shutdown of all non-essential businesses, much of the legislation from the House was no longer moving forward to the Senate. Bills to address the education committee's priorities and to provide adequate funding for our public schools and colleges were, for the most part, tabled or vetoed.

However, the independent Commission to Study School Funding had started their work and continued through the year. Based on independent data and input from many and various stakeholders, the commission released its report. The full report can be found at,

[https://carsey.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2020/12/final\\_report\\_forcommission\\_v5\\_12012020.pdf](https://carsey.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2020/12/final_report_forcommission_v5_12012020.pdf)

Some of the findings from the study indicated that, "the current funding system does not provide for an equitable opportunity for an adequate education for all New Hampshire Students." The commission adopted an Education Cost Model formula that takes in several factors, "specific to the school district, including information about the students who attend schools of varying sizes and at different grade levels." I look forward to the hard work it will take in this budget year to meet the challenges of school funding addressed in the Commission report and other issues that affect our schools and colleges.

I would like to thank our public schools, administrators, teachers, and staff who continue to meet the challenges of the pandemic which made more visible the underfunded role of our schools in meeting needs of students such as food, health and safety, access to the internet and technology, and mental and behavioral supports, special education, and building requirements and safety. In addition, thank you to all those in town government, our police, fire, and EMS along with essential workers in all fields for their commitment to serve, protect, and help all of us through these tough times. We are stronger together.

We know that many people and many small businesses in our communities are suffering. I will continue to work to help our communities, schools, small businesses, and those who have lost their livelihoods, jobs, and homes to recover from this pandemic.

Thank you for giving me the honor of representing you in the New Hampshire House. Please get in touch with me with comments or concerns.

Linda Tanner

NH State Representative Sullivan District 9