Legislative Update: Voucher Expansion Proposal to Lead-off Session in January

By Brian Hawkins, NEA-New Hampshire Government Relations Director

STOP HB 607: The Local School Voucher Bill!

I hope that all of you have a chance to enjoy some much-deserved rest for the holidays, which is why when it comes to your winter break, I have limited the NEA-NH Legislative Update to members to just one thing: write to your State Representative(s) and tell them that HB 607, the local school voucher bill, is wrong for the students of New Hampshire!

In short, the voucher program in HB 607, if passed and adopted by a school community, would require property taxpayers to spend their locally raised tax dollars for their schools on individual private, religious and home school vouchers.

The cost for this program would be borne out of your school district budgets. With NO income qualification limit, local property taxpayers could be paying for multimillionaires’ private education while their local school budget suffers because of this program. Voters would have to approve the program, but they would have no say as to any limits once it is adopted and for those families who participate, local property taxpayers must pay for those vouchers until the student graduates from high school (even if the voters vote to rescind the entire program). These vouchers also cannot ever go down once someone is in the program!

This legislation could have a devastating effect on our students’ education and for our communities. The vote on this bill will likely come up on Wednesday, January 5th, so please take just a few minutes to write to your State Representative over the winter break and make sure they know their constituents want them to reject HB 607.

- Find our Fact Sheet on the bill here
- TAKE ACTION in the section below
• You can also watch a full description of this from our friends at Reaching Higher here

As always if you have questions, please e-mail me at bhawkins@nhnea.org

Happy Holidays!

______________________________

**TAKE ACTION: Defend Our Students’ Futures – Stop HB 607**

HB 607 would create a school voucher plan that allocates your locally raised school taxes to fund school voucher accounts that can be used to pay for private, religious, or homeschooling.

This bill would also represent a dramatic expansion of the school voucher program which is already 5,000% over budget. HB 607 has little accountability built into it and outsources local property taxes to a third party that is not accountable to taxpayers.

Write to your state representative today and tell them to vote NO on HB 607.