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# Republican Review

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## NHGOP Chair Jennifer Horn Budget OpEd

### Quote of the Week

*"Perseverance is the hard work you do after you get tired of doing the hard work you already did"*

*– Newt Gingrich*

### *This Week's Issue:*

Budget OpEd	1
Meet a New Member	2
Notes From GOP Leader	3

Gov. Maggie Hassan has been quick to take credit for the passage of the bipartisan state budget. However, a review of the budget process shows that her dubious claims of providing fiscal leadership do not reflect reality.

The No. 1 priority for the governor is to develop a balanced, fiscally sound budget proposal to kick off the budget season. Unfortunately, she presented an unaffordable plan in February that increased state spending by \$1 billion — a 10 percent increase over the previous budget. Her proposal included numerous taxes and spending increases and a delay in important business tax reforms passed last session by Republicans. Her budget was “balanced” with \$80 million in non-existent casino fees, a plan that was rejected by the Democrat-controlled House.

House Democrats then proposed a budget that included a dramatic increase in state spending that was funded by an increase in the state gas tax. Instead of opposing the House Democrats’ gas tax hike, Gov. Hassan remained silent and did not rule out supporting it in the final budget negotiations.

Fortunately, Senate Republicans, under the leadership of Senate President Peter Bragdon, Majority Leader Jeb Bradley and Finance Committee Chairman Chuck Morse, did their homework and made tough choices. They presented a balanced proposal built on reasonable revenue estimates that funded critical state services without raising taxes.

The Senate Republican proposal increased funding for important HHS programs, fully restored funding to the UNIQUE scholarship program that serves high-need New Hampshire residents seeking a college education and preserved a scholarship program for needy elementary and high school students. At the same time, the Senate implemented the promised business tax reforms passed last year, increased no taxes or fees, and increased spending by a very responsible 3 percent.

And how did Gov. Hassan respond to this fiscally responsible proposal? She launched partisan political attacks against the Senate, called its plan “fiscally irresponsible” “shortsighted,” and threatened that it would “cost hundreds of jobs.”

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## Meet a New Member

### Rep. Curtis Grace

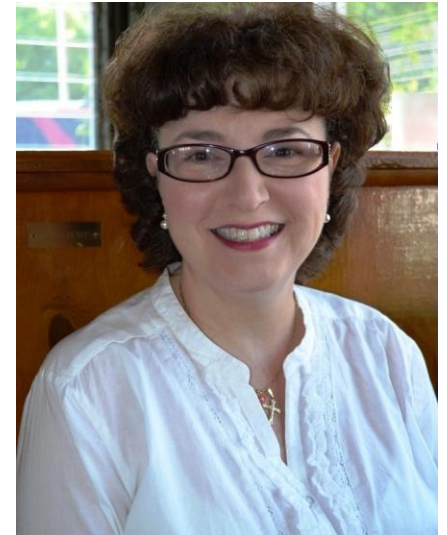


Curtis has his hands full with 2 boys aged 8 and 9, while running his own Executive Search firm. For this reason, he is happy to serve on the Legislative Administration committee, which has lighter time demands. He feels strongly about doing his best to uphold the commitment he made to serve.

Curtis decided to run after being very involved in Romney's campaign. He is a graduate of Southern NH University, and has worked over 10 years in the recruitment and human resources field for high tech companies. He also founded a leading brand of artisan Italian gelato and sorbretto in Massachusetts.

Curtis has found this year simultaneously challenging and rewarding, and thanks his wife for her much appreciated support.

### Rep. Jane Cormier



Jane loves music and has built a career around it. She currently works at Green Valley School in Pembroke teaching classes in music and theater, and also leads a non-profit called "Just Love to Sing."

Hopefully, you have had the opportunity to hear Jane lead us in the National Anthem; her operatic training and background really shines through!

Jane lives in Alton and serves that town as well as Barnstead and Gilmanton. She has two children, 21 and 12 years old.

When she's not working, Jane spends her time writing for the Weirs Times, taking walks, cooking and reading. Jane serves on the Resources committee and is particularly concerned about the efforts of regional planning commissions.

## Medicaid Expansion Commission Update

On Monday, the Commission to Study Medicaid Expansion, which was created in the State Budget, had their first meeting. During this meeting the commission voted to make Jim Varnum, the former president of Mary Hitchcock Memorial Hospital the chairman of the commission.

Jim Varnum was one of Gov. Hassan's appointees and was also founded and served as president of the Dartmouth-Hitchcock Alliance from 1983 to 2006.

The commission is set to meet again this coming Tuesday afternoon and will meet through the following months until their final report is due on Oct. 15<sup>th</sup>.

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**NHGOP Chair Jennifer Horn Budget OpEd Continued**

Despite Gov. Hassan’s unproductive comments, House Democrats and Senate Republicans were able to come together and reach a compromise. During this process, Gov. Hassan did not provide any new ideas to balance the budget and even saddled budget writers with an eleventh-hour, \$38 million state employee contract expense that was omitted from her original proposal. She also decided to leave New Hampshire and travel out of state for several days while a bipartisan group of legislators in Concord worked on a plan. Senate Republicans stuck to their fiscally responsible principles and produced a budget that closely mirrored their original proposal and bore little resemblance to the governor’s plan.

Like the Republican Senate proposal, the recently signed state budget does not raise taxes or fees. The tax and fee increases in Gov. Hassan’s proposal were eliminated and the gas tax increase that she was willing to allow was also excluded. Like the Republican Senate proposal, the budget spends only what the state can afford (an increase of about 3 percent, significantly less than the increase included in the governor’s proposal). Like the Republican Senate proposal, the budget implements the important business tax reforms Gov. Hassan wanted to stop. And like the Republican Senate proposal, the budget preserves critical state services by providing affordable increases in funding for worthy programs.

Gov. Hassan is now attempting to rewrite history by crediting herself with bipartisan leadership, despite the fact that she didn’t provide any real leadership during the budget process. She is now praising a state budget that is based almost entirely on a Republican proposal that she attacked and disparaged only a few weeks ago. Fortunately, the people of New Hampshire realize that they would be saddled with Gov. Hassan’s proposed tax hikes and reckless spending increases if not for the efforts of the fiscally responsible Republican Senate.

**Notes From the Republican Leader**

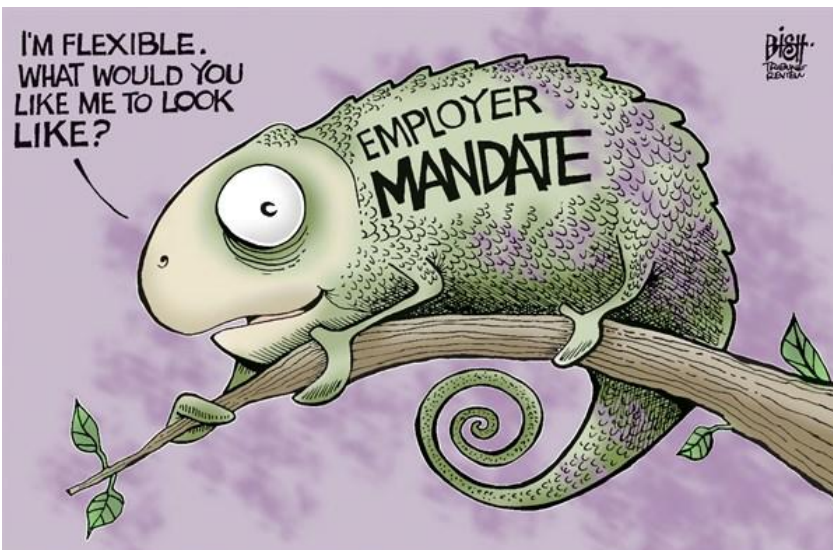
Over the next few months, our office will be following the meetings of the Medicaid Expansion Commission very closely and will be working to keep you up to date periodically.

Medicaid Expansion is a very import issue facing our state and we must be sure that we have all the information necessary to make an informed decision.

As a reminder, all of the meetings will also be live sreamed online at <http://gencourt.state.nh.us/>.

As always, if you need any help on Letters to the Editor or would just like to speak to someone in the office, feel free to contact us at 271-3665.

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Gene



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