

Republican Review

A Publication of the New Hampshire House Majority Office

HOUSE REPUBLICANS COMMENT ON PASSAGE OF TASK FORCE RESOLUTION

CONCORD - Speaker of the New Hampshire House Shawn Jasper (R-Hudson) and House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack) offered the following comments relative to the passage of Special Session House Concurrent Resolution 1 (SSHCR1), establishing a legislative task force to address the state's opioid and heroin addiction crisis. SSHCR1 passed the House by a vote of 290-46 and passed the Senate unanimously by a voice vote.

"This Task Force will allow us the time to work on these bills appropriately but in an expedited manner to combat this crisis. It will allow legislative action to be taken in an open and transparent process in order to vet all proposals. House and Senate members have continuously heard from local leaders related to how this crisis is affecting their communities. We know that a process without their input could result in less effective results and create more problems. We believe this is the most effective way to come up with a solution which benefits the citizens of New Hampshire," **said House Speaker Shawn Jasper.**

"We believe this Task Force is the best approach to coming up with a comprehensive set of solutions. These are complex issues with huge consequences," **said House Majority Leader Richard Hinch (R-Merrimack).** "By assembling this group of legislators who are experts in their respective policy areas, and putting together a process by which they work with external stakeholders, we believe we have a better chance of not just having good legislation, but having the best legislation we can, given what we know at this time. This is an evolving issue that the legislature is prepared to deal with throughout the coming months. This Task Force will be on the front lines of the legislative process, and their work will help our state respond in a swift, but measured manner."

The Task Force will be made up of 26 House and Senate members representing a wide range of committees and will fully vet and debate a set of issues including but not limited to:

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SPEAKER JASPER ANNOUNCES HOUSE TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Concord—New Hampshire House Speaker Shawn Jasper today released the names of House members who have been appointed to a Joint Task Force established today with the passage of SSHCR1 (290-46). Of the 14 House members appointed to the task force, eight are republicans and six are democrats. In addition, the speaker appointed 10 alternates, six republicans and four democrats, who will step in should one of the sitting members of the task force be unable to attend a meeting.

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**Please note that state offices will be closed on
Thanksgiving and the day after
(Thursday, November 26th and Friday, November 27th).**



Congratulations to our newest representative, Rep. Bob Graham (R-Milton) who was sworn in on Wednesday, making it just in time to attend session!

SPEAKER APPOINTEES

House Majority Leader

Rep. Richard W. Hinch (r-Merrimack)

Chairman of House JudiciaryRep. Robert H. Rowe (r-Amherst)
(*designee*: Rep. Claire Rouillard, r-Goffstown)**Chairman of House Finance**Rep. Neal M. Kurk (r-Weare)
(*designee*: Rep. Lynne M. Ober, r-Hudson)**Chairman of House Criminal Justice**

Rep. John E. Tholl, Jr. (r-Whitefield)

Chairman of House Health & Human Services

Rep. Frank R. Kotowski (r-Hooksett)

Chairman of House Executive Depts. & Administration

(designee) Rep. Peter T. Hansen (r-Amherst)

House Speaker Appointee

Rep. Joseph Hannon (r-Lee)

House Speaker Appointee

Rep. Sherman A. Packard (r-Londonderry)

As the first named House member listed in the resolution, Majority Leader Dick Hinch has set the date of the organizational meeting for Tuesday, November 24, 2015 at 9:00 a.m. An agenda for the meeting will be released within the next few days.

House Minority Leader

Rep. Stephen J. Shurtleff (d-Penacook)

Minority Member of House Judiciary

Rep. Linda Kenison (d-Concord)

Minority Member of House Finance

Rep. Cindy Rosenwald (d-Nashua)

Minority Member of House Criminal Justice

Rep. Andrew S. O'Hearne (d-Claremont)

Minority Member of House Health & Human Services

Rep. Thomas M. Sherman (d-Rye)

Minority Member of Executive Depts. & Admin

Rep. Jeffrey P. Goley (d-Manchester)

House Alternates

Rep. Valerie Fraser (r-New Hampton)

Rep. Joseph M. Hagan (r-Chester)

Rep. Rick M. Ladd (r-Haverhill)

Rep. David J. Danielson (r-Bedford)

Rep. Catherine A. Cheney (r-Dover)

Rep. John B. Hunt (r-Rindge)

Rep. Janet G. Wall (d-Madbury)

Rep. Laura C. Pantelakos (d-Portsmouth)

Rep. James R. MacKay (d-Concord)

Rep. Raymond G. Gagnon (d-Claremont)

REPUBLICANS' COMMENTS CONTINUED

- Updating penalties for fentanyl distribution to be consistent with penalties for heroin
- Requiring insurance companies to adhere to same substance abuse treatment evaluation criteria; removing prior authorization requirements
- Updating prescription drug monitoring program technology, increase statewide usage
- Expanding Drug Courts
- Increasing law enforcement prevention and interdiction measures
- Increasing prescriber educational standards

A preliminary report is expected before the Christmas holiday, and a final report will be presented on January 6, 2016 which will serve as the basis for filing legislation.

Of the 26 task force members, 14 will be members of the House, and will include Republican and Democrat members of the House Criminal Justice, Judiciary, Health and Human Services, Executive Departments and Administration, and Finance committees. The Speaker will have two additional appointees. Several alternates will be ready to fill in should a regular appointee be absent.

Speaker Jasper added, "We will draw upon House members' professional backgrounds in law enforcement, medical services, and judicial matters in addition to their policy expertise. A benefit of a volunteer, citizen legislature is that we have many members with practical, real-world experience in areas directly related to what the task force is charged with addressing."