



Letter to the Editor

Katie Robert, Board President
4 Park Street, Suite 403
Concord, NH 03301
(603) 228-2983
info@nhpha.org
www.nhpha.org

FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION

NH Public Health Association urges negotiations now on the budget

NH Public Health Association urges negotiations now on the budget. We understand why some wish Governor Hassan had not vetoed it, but we think she was right. The unacceptable cuts in business taxes amount to a poison pill inside the half-a-loaf of needed increases in funding the Governor originally proposed. NH state government has been cut to the bone over recent years through lean budgets and back-of-the-budget cuts the governor had to make due to revenue shortfalls. It is unwise to rely on possible increases in business activity from business tax cuts to offset loss of revenue. Nibbling that half-a-loaf now may sicken us later.

Those who crafted the vetoed budget may feel their majority should mean that they should get their way. But the Governor also won in 2014 over a candidate espousing business tax cuts. We believe that they all have the responsibility to protect the health of all people in the state, not just the ones who voted for them. The health of the most vulnerable among us has been jeopardized by years of cutting services because our representatives have been unwilling to find ways to raise the revenues needed to meet NH's needs. Cutting business taxes only makes a very bad situation worse and worse with each year if no other source of funds is enacted.

Partisan sniping must stop and leaders must craft a budget protecting public health and giving reasonable people in all parts of the electorate the feeling that they have been heard.

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About the New Hampshire Public Health Association

The NHPHA was incorporated in 1992 as a 501c(3) private, not-for-profit organization, and in January 2004, declared 501c(3)(h) status. We bring together

people interested in public health, and provide a forum for the exchange of public health information. We speak on public health issues with a voice that is manifestly separate and distinct from the State Government as well as aid in identifying public health problems within the State. Our goal is to inform the citizenry of changes needed in the laws and government in order to improve public health. We also reach out to educate members of the New Hampshire legislature, executive branch, courts, cities and towns, federal government and others on matters pertaining to public health.

Visit our website to learn more: www.nhpha.org