



Contact George Strout
Telephone 603-224-7751 x308
Cell 603-867-3104
Email gstrout@nhnea.org
Website www.neanh.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
June 23, 2015

NEA NEW HAMPSHIRE DENOUNCES LEGISLATURE'S ATTEMPT TO RAID CREDENTIALING FUND

CONCORD, NH, June 23, 2015– NEA-New Hampshire believes the budget coming out of the Committee of Conference is unbalanced, unfair, and shortsighted. One under-reported gimmick the Legislature is using to subsidize huge tax cuts to businesses, is to raid the State Teacher Credentialing Fund of \$2.5 million.

To ensure integrity, relevance, and high quality in the preparation, certification, and conduct of New Hampshire educators, all professionals employed in NH public schools must possess the appropriate certification for their assignment. Teachers pay a fee to the Credentialing Fund to receive and maintain their certification.

“New Hampshire prides itself on our high quality, locally controlled schools. Our students are some of the best prepared in the country, and that is not by accident,” said Scott McGilvray, NEA-New Hampshire President. “New Hampshire’s public school students, preschool through grade 12, are inspired, and prepared to achieve their highest potential, by well prepared and exceptionally qualified educators.”

The Credentialing Fund is financed solely by fees teachers’ pay as part of the certification process – no money in this fund comes from other taxpayers. According to RSA 186:11 X(b), funds collected from these fees can be expended only for these purposes, and not be transferred to any other appropriation.

“The Legislature has chosen not to let the law stand in the way as they give millions of dollars to out-of-state corporations,” said McGilvray.

“This scheme specifically and exclusively targets the hard-working teachers of our state, taking hundreds of extra dollars of income from them to balance a state budget rife with gifts to wealthy corporations,” concluded McGilvray.

###

About NEA-New Hampshire:

Founded in 1854, the New Hampshire State Teachers Association became one of the “founding ten” state education associations that formed the National Education Association in 1857. Known today as NEA-NH, and comprised of more than 16,000 members making us the largest union in the state, our mission to advocate for the children of New Hampshire and public school employees and to promote lifelong learning remains true after more than 150 years. Our members are public school educators in all stages of their careers, including classroom teachers and other certified professionals, instructors at public higher education institutions, students preparing for a teaching career, education support personnel and those retired from the profession.