



NEA-NH President Scott McGilvray spoke during the *NHFPI, Business Owners and Community Leaders to Speak Out Against Business Tax Cuts* press conference on April 14, 2015. His Comments appear below:

A budget for any family or organization, no matter how big or small, reflects their goals, aspirations and priorities.

What does this budget say about our House budget writers' vision for New Hampshire?

It clearly reaffirms that their priority is not to provide opportunity for working families, or stimulate the New Hampshire economy, or protect the less fortunate.

Their priority is ensuring the rich become richer at the expense of the poor and middle class.

More than 1 in 4 New Hampshire students is eligible for free or reduced-priced lunches.

Students from such families tend to arrive at school with different needs from those from middle-class and affluent families.

They may have more medical problems and need extra academic help.

Unlike their wealthier peers, many do not have the benefit of music lessons, private sports leagues, tutoring or trips to cultural events, and their public schools are left to fill in the gaps.

This budget fails them.

All children deserve an excellent education, regardless of their family's income or zip code. We need to ensure that all children have a fair shot at a high quality education, because we all do better when everyone has an opportunity to succeed.

This budget fails to provide those opportunities.

Students should have a well-rounded education, including history classes, music and art programs, and Physical Education, or P.E. Smaller, less crowded classrooms sizes allow children to get one-on-one time with their teacher and parents are more quickly notified if their child is falling behind.

This budget forces districts to make harmful cuts in these areas.

We all agree that working families thrive when our government actually promotes opportunity, protects workers, discourages outsourcing, and supports families.



Our budgets should support our shared priorities and values. Instead, this budget continues the downward spiral of lowered expectations and aspirations we have become accustomed to seeing from the Statehouse majority.

New Hampshire expects, deserves, and can accomplish much more. Cutting our way to prosperity is a failed notion, but one that Statehouse budget writers desperately cling to.

As educators, we believe there is a success story in every student just waiting to happen. We believe the same is true for our state. The state's budget should support that potential, not kill it.

Cutting our way to prosperity is a failed notion, one which we urge the Governor and Statehouse policy makers to reject once and for all.