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## Legislative Update: Voucher Expansion Proposal to Lead-off Session in January

By Brian Hawkins, NEA-New Hampshire Government Relations Director

### STOP HB 607: The Local School Voucher Bill!

I hope that all of you have a chance to enjoy some much-deserved rest for the holidays, which is why when it comes to your winter break, I have limited the NEA-NH Legislative Update to members to just one thing: **write to your State Representative(s) and tell them that HB 607, the local school voucher bill, is wrong for the students of New Hampshire!**

In short, the voucher program in HB 607, if passed and adopted by a school community, **would require property taxpayers to spend their locally raised tax dollars for their schools on individual private, religious and home school vouchers.**

The cost for this program would be borne out of your school district budgets. With NO income qualification limit, **local property taxpayers could be paying for multimillionaires' private education while their local school budget suffers** because of this program. Voters would have to approve the program, but they would have **no say as to any limits once it is adopted** and for those families who participate, **local property taxpayers must pay for those vouchers until the student graduates from high school** (even if the voters vote to rescind the entire program). These vouchers also cannot ever go down once someone is in the program!

This legislation could have a devastating effect on our students' education and for our communities. **The vote on this bill will likely come up on Wednesday, January 5th**, so please take just a few minutes to write to your State Representative over the winter break and make sure they know their constituents want them to reject HB 607.

- [Find our Fact Sheet on the bill here](#)
- [TAKE ACTION](#) in the section below

- [You can also watch a full description of this from our friends at Reaching Higher here](#)

As always if you have questions, please e-mail me at [bhawkins@nhnea.org](mailto:bhawkins@nhnea.org)

Happy Holidays!

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## **TAKE ACTION: Defend Our Students' Futures – Stop HB 607**

**HB 607 would create a school voucher plan that allocates your locally raised school taxes to fund school voucher accounts that can be used to pay for private, religious, or homeschooling.**

This bill would also represent a dramatic expansion of the school voucher program which is already 5,000% over budget. HB 607 has little accountability built into it and outsources local property taxes to a third party that is not accountable to taxpayers.

**Write to your state representative today and tell them to vote NO on HB 607.**