



Capitol Report

From New Hampshire Senator Lou D'Allesandro • January 2007

D'Allesandro honored to serve 5th Senate term

I want to thank each and every voter in Goffstown and in Manchester wards 3, 4, 10 and 11 for your participation in the November election. I am honored and humbled by the overwhelming support I received to win a fifth term in the New Hampshire Senate.

I am looking forward to working with Gov. John Lynch and being part of a new era of leadership in Concord that I am confident will keep our state moving forward. Standing up for working families is my passion, and protecting your future is my priority.

My pledge to you as we begin a new legislative session is the same pledge I've made throughout my career in public service:

YES, to creating new jobs and a Granite State environment for economic growth!

NO, to a sales or income tax!

ALWAYS fighting to help working families and those in need! ★



Senator D'Allesandro and his wife, Pat, anxiously await the vote results on Election Night. They were delighted to learn that voters had again chosen him as their voice in the N.H. Senate.

Do you have a comment?

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Death benefit proposed for families of slain emergency responders

Continuing his long-term commitment to those on the front lines of public safety and their families, Sen. Lou D'Allesandro has introduced legislation to provide a \$100,000 death benefit to the family of any police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty.

D'Allesandro's legislation, dubbed "Michael's Law," is named after Manchester Police Officer Michael Briggs, who was

fatally shot on duty. Early in the morning of Oct. 16, 2006, Briggs, a five-year veteran of the MPD, was questioning a suspect in a domestic dispute when the suspect allegedly shot Briggs — just 15 minutes before the end of his shift.

In an odd twist, it was discovered that the suspect was the same man whose life Briggs had saved after a 2003 shooting.
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D'Allesandro tapped for key finance post

With New Hampshire voters returning Democrats to the majority in the state Senate for the first time since 1998, Sen. Lou D'Allesandro will assume an even stronger leadership role in the next two years.

Recognizing D'Allesandro's well-known fiscal expertise, his fellow Senators elected the five-term Manchester Democrat to a new position: Senate Vice President for Finance.

D'Allesandro will become point man for the Democrats on all revenue and spending questions.

In addition to chairing the Senate Finance Committee, which deals with all budget matters, he will also play a key role on the Senate Ways and Means Committee, the Senate Capital Budget Committee, the Legislature's fiscal committee and facilities committee.

"The numbers are kind of where it's at in this business," D'Allesandro said, stressing his enthusiasm for working with budgets. "The big picture item is keeping the Senate Democratic, carrying the governor's agenda forward and serving

the people."

D'Allesandro is widely known for being one of the state's strongest advocates for working families.

And like Gov. Lynch, D'Allesandro is an outspoken opponent of any broad-based income or sales tax for New Hampshire.

Leading the Senate will be Concord Democrat Sylvia Larsen, while Nashua's Joe Foster will serve as Majority Leader.

In the last two years, D'Allesandro served as deputy Democratic leader. Even with Republicans in the

majority, he was one of the few Democrats named as a committee chairman — chair of the Ways and Means Committee.

The Senate's agenda this year is likely to include working to define a constitutionally adequate education, lowering the school dropout rate, conserving open space, expanding the Healthy Kids program to cover the remaining 17,000 uninsured children in the state, passing new ethics reforms, raising the minimum wage and passing a statewide ban on smoking in restaurants. ★



New leadership expected to break through logjam

A new era of leadership at the Statehouse in Concord will allow the House and Senate to finally focus on truly resolving the long-standing education funding issue in Concord, Sen. Lou D'Allesandro expects.

But D'Allesandro also says he believes education won't be the only issue left over from previous years.

"A smoking ban in public restaurants, stricter

ethics rules, raising the minimum wage are just three issues that the old guard in Concord blocked, but which should all draw quick and positive action this time," said D'Allesandro.

"We'll be working closely to help pass Governor Lynch's agenda as well, which will include expanding the Healthy Kids program to cover the remaining 17,000 uninsured children in New

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Death benefit

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Briggs, a U.S. Marine Corps veteran, was married with two small children.

“Police officers and firefighters are true heroes who risk their own lives to protect ours,” D’Allesandro

said. “When they make the ultimate sacrifice, we owe it to them to do what we can to protect the families they leave behind.”

The New England Police Benevolent Association (PBA) originally approached D’Allesandro about the legislation.

New England PBA Legislative Director Paul Larkham said, “Michael’s Law will ensure that those who give

their lives for their communities will never be forgotten, and their families will be protected.”

New England PBA Executive

Director Jerry Flynn called Senator D’Allesandro “a true champion of public safety officers and their families, and he should

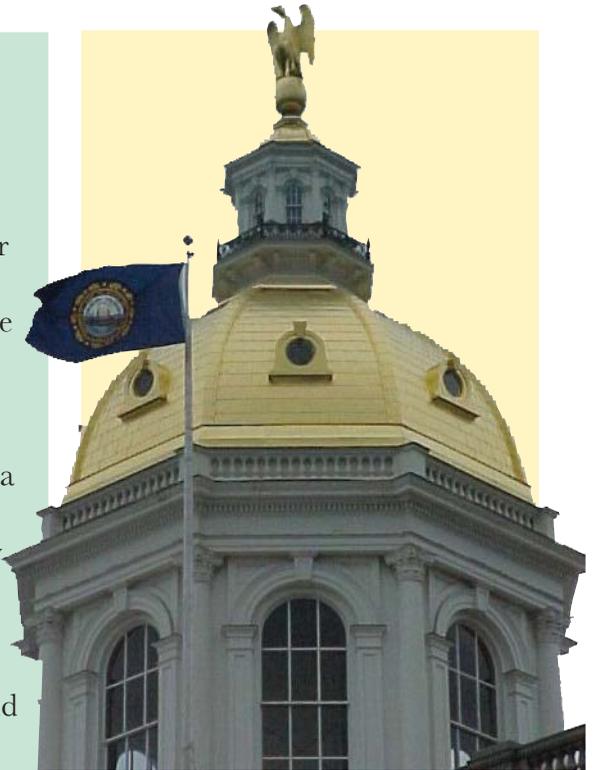
be applauded for his courage and commitment.”

In the 2003-04 biennium, D’Allesandro successfully pushed through a law that provides free tuition at any New Hampshire institution of higher learning for the children of any police officer or firefighter who is killed in the line of duty.

He also has championed efforts to assure adequate health care for any officer or firefighter injured in the line of duty. ★

“Police officers and firefighters are true heroes who risk their own lives to protect ours.”

— *Sen. Lou D’Allesandro*



Logjam

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Hampshire, lowering the school dropout rate, conserving open space and protecting our environment,” added the five-term Manchester Democrat.

D’Allesandro has long been recognized as the leading advocate for working families in Concord, and this year his leadership role will be strengthened thanks to his new position as Vice President for Finance in the Senate — a position in which he will play a critical oversight role in all spending decisions.

In addition, D’Allesandro will continue to fight for his constituents in Manchester and Goffstown by working to assure a fair share of state funding for the ongoing transportation and public works projects. ★





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Panel raises questions about state bidding process

A legislative study committee Sen. Lou D’Allesandro served on has raised serious questions about the fairness and efficiency of the state’s process of awarding construction contracts for public projects.

The N.H. Legislature’s Procurement Methods Study Committee, which issued a report in October, found that further study needs to be done on current procurement practices, which include a “cost and competition penalty” on contractors that provide health insurance for their workers.

The report said that testimony tied the issues of uncompensated care and health care cost-shifting to the state’s

procurement process. The state’s contracting practices actually may encourage construction contractors to cut back or eliminate their worker health insurance benefits so they can maintain their competitive edge when bidding on public projects.

When those construction workers lose their insurance, health care costs and insurance rates increase for everyone else.

Facts included in the testimony:

- Most New Hampshire residents without insurance live in a family with a full-time worker.
- Construction workers account for the sector with the largest percentage of uninsured workers in New Hampshire.
- Employer-based health

insurance has dropped more in construction than in any other major economic sector except agriculture from 2002-2005.

“Public entities have an obligation to get the best value for construction spending,” the committee’s report said.

In testimony before the committee, trade groups reported that the problem is universal for construction companies — both union and nonunion.

“We do need to look further into this matter,” D’Allesandro said. “The last thing we want is for the state’s process of bidding on projects meant for the public good to actually discourage health care access.” ★

