



# Capitol Report

From New Hampshire Senator Lou D'Allesandro • Summer 2008

## Amendment needed to balance disparities for public schools

The Legislature this spring addressed the fundamental questions of how much the state will contribute per public school student and what would be included in determining the cost of providing an adequate education.

The basic state adequacy plan sends \$3,450 per student to every public school to educate students in response to the Supreme Court decision to create a funding formula that is fair and constitutional.

The adequacy plan also includes additional disparity aid for schools with students who speak English as a second language, receive special education services or who get free and reduced

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**“Children in property-rich communities have more opportunities than children in property-poor communities. That’s not good education policy,” says Sen. Lou D’Allesandro.**

### Do you have a comment?

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## Democrats deliver on promises

Sen. Lou D’Allesandro believes that promises made should be promises kept.

“Voters chose Democrats as the majority party in the General Court in November 2006 because we promised positive changes that would help to improve people’s lives,” D’Allesandro said.

Working with Gov. John Lynch, D’Allesandro and his Democratic colleagues have now completed one of the most productive legislative sessions in New Hampshire history.

Here is some of what the Democratic majority accomplished

for voters:

### **EDUCATION**

- Guaranteed the right of every child to attend kindergarten
- Defined what an adequate education must be to meet the Supreme Court mandate
- Created an equalized funding formula for schools to meet the Supreme Court mandate
- Increased funding for early learning and for the Head Start program
- Raised high school graduation rates by changing the dropout

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## Happy Birthday, Lou!

Join family, friends and supporters of Sen. D'Allesandro as they wish him a happy birthday at his annual fund-raising celebration.

5:30-7:30 p.m., Wednesday, July 30  
Athens Restaurant  
31 Central St., Manchester



**Sen. Lou D'Allesandro stands next to Gov. John Lynch last year as he signed a new law to provide a death benefit to the family of a police officer or firefighter killed in the line of duty. This year, D'Allesandro co-sponsored a bill to extend the death benefit coverage to EMTs; the bill is awaiting the governor's signature.**

## Stimulus plan misses mark

All challenges present opportunities. Unfortunately, I believe this country will look back on the recent economic stimulus package announced by President Bush as one of this country's biggest missed opportunities in more than 70 years.

Considering our current economic downturn and the pressing need for infrastructure investments in this country, the president's plan for a one-time tax rebate fails to provide a long-term economic solution.

President Bush should recognize that the key to economic recovery lies in job creation. Our roads are deteriorating, many of our bridges have been declared unsafe, and the highway trust funds across the country are under-funded. We as a nation should be investing in our infrastructure. What we should be undertaking with the \$152 billion in economic stimulus money is planning and executing a federally financed public works program, similar to the Works Progress Administration that President Franklin D. Roosevelt included in his New Deal.

This type of program could both strengthen our existing infrastructure and position our country for a century of economic growth and innovation by building the foundation for new technologies, alternative fuels and efficient and safe transportation. It also would have created about 3,800 new jobs in our state and meant work for many N.H. companies.

The path the president has chosen is the wrong direction and will only lead us further into a downward economic cycle. Investing in our nation's infrastructure would have a lasting effect and help bring us out of this recession and onto better economic times. ★

*This is an excerpt of a column by Sen. Lou D'Allesandro.*

## Education

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lunches.

This extra aid is especially important to some of the schools in Manchester and Goffstown.

Sen. Lou D'Allesandro believes that more needs to be done to target aid to schools needing additional help beyond basic adequacy costs.

"We have a state

responsibility to guarantee equal education opportunity for all our children, but there are still disparities," D'Allesandro said. "Children in property-rich communities have more opportunities than children in property-poor communities. That's not good education policy."

D'Allesandro supports a constitutional amendment to give

the Legislature the ability to address local disparities with targeted aid to communities with greater needs.

"I believe that we must pass a constitutional amendment in the next legislative session if we are to keep our promise to children and give them the equal education opportunities they deserve," D'Allesandro said. ★

# Legislature should allow expanded gaming proposal

The state Senate in May voted down an expanded gaming proposal featuring video lottery machines that would have given the state \$110 million up front (\$50 million from the horse track, \$20 million from each of the dog tracks) in initial license fees, and a revenue stream of between \$250 million to \$300 million a year.

This bill called for local control, state supervision and an opportunity to restore a strong racing program in New Hampshire. The bill would also provide an opportunity for those who have farms to retain this open space and restore the breeding industry in our state.

To make sure that the safety and security of our state population would be maintained, a number of safeguards were built into the bill.

The other aspect of the bill is how the proceeds would be distributed under RSA 284-A:8, which establishes a specified net machine income distribution schedule with the following breakdown: 43 percent goes to the state, 2 percent to the municipality in which the video lottery machines are operated and 4 percent to the Pari-mutuel Commission for a live racing fund. Money from the

live racing fund would be disbursed as follows:

- Up to 5 percent to support a horse-breeding fund.
- Up to 7 percent to treat problem gambling.
- Up to 3 percent to the county in which the pari-mutuel licensee is located.

The balance would be used by the Pari-mutuel Commission to enhance live racing purses at licensee locations.

Two percent would go to the Department of Resources and Economic Development to promote tourism in New Hampshire, and 1 percent to the Department of Transportation to meet transportation needs.

It's anticipated that \$1 billion would be spent expanding gaming facilities. This would mean jobs in the construction industry as well as the creation of 4,000 jobs once these facilities are online.

As we ponder the future of our state as a tourist attraction, a place people want to come to and plan to call home, I wonder why our Legislature can't respond to what the people want. We may not have another chance. ★

*This is an excerpt of a column by Sen. Lou D'Allesandro.*



Sen. Lou D'Allesandro meets with members of the Robotics Team from Manchester's Trinity High School. The team was among winners at this spring's regional FIRST (For Inspiration and Recognition of Science and Technology) high school robotics competition at Boston University.



Sen. Lou D'Allesandro joins two young constituents in celebrating "Read Across America" day, celebrated on Dr. Seuss's birthday at the Statehouse. Dr. Seuss epitomizes a love of children and learning, and his books are great tools for teaching children to read. 3



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# For residents of Goffstown and Manchester wards 3, 4, 10 and 11

*Paid for by the Committee to Elect Lou D'Allesandro, Patricia D'Allesandro, Fiscal Agent*



## Democrats deliver on promises

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- age to 17
- Expanded alternative education programs in high schools
- Increased funding for the technical colleges and the university system
- Lowered interest rates on college student loans

### HEALTH CARE

- Expanded the N.H. Children's Health Program to cover 10,000 more children
- Expanded family health care coverage for dependents until age 26
- Created HealthFirst to help small businesses access affordable health care for

- their employees
- Eliminated the developmental disabilities waiting list over the next three years
- Toughened the law to help prevent lead poisoning in children
- Banned smoking in restaurants and bars

### ENVIRONMENT

- Banned the burning of toxic construction and demolition debris
- Banned the disposal of mercury-added products in solid waste landfills
- Funded the Land and Community Heritage Investment Program
- Required that 25 percent of New Hampshire's energy come

from renewable sources by 2025

### ECONOMY

- Raised the minimum wage for the first time in 10 years
- Created a Job Training Program for workers to learn new 21<sup>st</sup> century job skills
- Established an R & D Tax Credit and an Economic Vitalization Tax Credit

### OUR RIGHTS

- Prohibited New Hampshire from joining the Federal Real ID program
- Repealed a law infringing on a woman's right to choose
- Established civil unions for same-sex couples ★