

Position Paper #2003-005

“Eye on Granite State Government”

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This the CNHT original/~~updated~~ position.

Bill # or Issue: HB 754 School Vouchers

CNHT Recommends: Passage of laws that encourage competition in the delivery of education encouraging better instruction at a lower cost to the taxpayer.

History: Various educator’s unions have effectively blocked (spending \$43 million in California) any attempt to develop alternate methods of education delivery in the United States.

(Endorsements & Objections)

Endorsement: With an expected New Hampshire student growth rate of 2,500 per year the bill would create only 2,000 new vouchers each year. This creates no reductions to the existing student population. It will not reduce positions of the current school system employees.

The benefit is expected to come from the innovations that will occur. The private sector educators will introduce new instruction standards to raise the testing levels of their students. Their incentive is to attract and retain students from year to year. The vouchered students have the choice of changing schools at anytime they feel they are being shortchanged. Currently many students are trapped in mediocre or poorly performing schools. The student is only free to seek alternatives when their school produces disastrous testing scores. Competition would allow a choice of schools at the discretion of the parents. The parents are the ultimate purchasers of education and should have the free choices presented in a competitive marketplace.

Competition always produces a better result and almost always at a lower cost. The taxpayer and the parent deserve a better trained student from a vibrant and competitively priced education service industry.

Objections: Allowing parents a choice will drain money from the current public school system.

Coalition of New Hampshire Taxpayers recommends that the legislature: support the experiment in education delivery systems with a goal of a better educated student and a smaller burden to the taxpayer.

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