

# Saving NH

## **What You Need to Know about The Free State Project and its Impact on New Hampshire**

### **Introduction - *Changing Our State***

More than 1,000 political migrants moved into New Hampshire during the past 10 years. Twelve-thousand more have promised to come.

They are the vanguard of 20,000 “liberty-loving people” being recruited across the nation by the Free State Project (FSP).

The early Free State arrivals, working with several other liberty focused groups, have already impacted New Hampshire far beyond their number.

This booklet examines this phenomenon --- what is happening today and what it means for New Hampshire’s future. It shines a bright light on the Free State Project, so that more people will know about it.

Free Staters are very big on transparency, including having a more transparent government, to make sure that it isn’t doing anything it shouldn’t be doing. Some are video-philes, and can sometimes be seen filming police officers on city streets, and political figures at public meetings.

But transparency goes both ways. Many of the political efforts undertaken by Free Staters and the Free State Project itself have been out of view of the general public: organizing on the Internet; generally conducting secretive political campaigns; and creating grand sounding political organizations that have under the radar started to dominate the soul of the NH Republican party.

An important part of the transparency this booklet will provide is to place the Free State Project in the larger context of New Hampshire politics these days. It will show that Free Staters have been collaborating with members of the Tea Party and libertarian leaning activists inside and outside of the State, to ensure that NH’s government should only be in place to defend liberty and protect private property, and nothing more.

For some reason, the media hasn’t taken the time to really look beneath the surface, - and has continually pointed to the Tea Party as the cause of the “radical” turn the NH Republican Party has taken since 2010. But this radical turn can be more easily explained, when the role of the Free State Party, within the Republican party, is understood.

Free Staters in NH are generally intelligent, focused and diligent people, who are sincerely interested in promoting personal responsibility in its broadest meaning. They are committed to discussion and action on the issues and problems they see facing New Hampshire and the nation. And they see many problems.

The problems Free Staters see center on what they view as government impacts on liberty and property rights. Working with other liberty activists, they've focused intensely on the rights of the individual, and have diminished the importance of protecting and promoting the common good.

This focus has taken many forms, from promoting gun rights in the extreme; to cutting budgets in ways that hurt NH residents most in need of protection; to attacking public education on several fronts; to challenging unions and pushing right-to-work legislation.

It's been about stalling efforts that had previously been underway to limit greenhouse gases, and promote alternative energy and alternative transportation options; challenging police authority and judicial authority; questioning the need for professional licensing, speed limits and sobriety check points, and so on..

The migration of Free Staters to New Hampshire has dramatically changed the political discussion here.

Ideally, they would be bringing their talents and dreams here, along with respect for the people, places and traditions they find here. And before inserting themselves into the public policy arena, they would be keenly interested in learning about the problems, and potential solutions, identified by a broad range of NH residents over decades.

But before they even moved here, FSP organizers set a very specific political goal --- to change New Hampshire -- *and its government* -- in some dramatic ways. And once here, they set about trying to fundamentally deconstructing government, - and hoping volunteerism and private enterprise would fill the void.

In getting deeply involved at various levels of our government in NH, Free Staters have opened the doors of the State in a very naïve way to the far right's agenda.

This rush to change New Hampshire doesn't fit with our state's live-and-let-live tradition. But Free Staters don't seem to appreciate this. They don't get the irony that they have come here to make New Hampshire "freer" so that **they** can live with more freedom, but it is **they** who are stomping on other peoples' freedom.

An editorial in the *Nashua Telegraph* a few years back posed the question: "Does anyone remember being asked if we wanted our state government to be taken over in this fashion? Who is asking for this invasion? How nice of the libertarians to attempt a takeover, even when they cooked up the idea without consultation with the non-libertarian inhabitants."

The mascot for the Free State Project is the porcupine, because in the words of one participant, "it's a peaceful gentle creature, but you don't want to mess with him." One might ask what the consequences are, if NH residents do mess with the FSP agenda.

One might also ask who is messing with whom in New Hampshire these days.

## The Beginnings

The Free State Project emerged from the mind of Jason Sorens, a graduate student at the Mercatus Center at George Mason University, which describes itself as “the world’s premier university source for market-oriented ideas.”

Sorens suggested that 20,000 libertarian-minded citizens “establish residence in a small state and take over the state government.”

“What I propose is a Free State Project....The only requirement is that you pledge that you will **work to reducing government to the minimal functions of protecting life, liberty, and property, establish residence in a small state, and take over the state government.....**

...Once we've taken over the state government, we can slash state and local budgets, which make up a sizeable proportion of the tax and regulatory burden we face every day. Furthermore, we can eliminate substantial federal interference by refusing to take highway funds and the strings attached to them. Once we've accomplished these things, we can bargain with the national government over reducing the role of the national government in our state. We Can use the threat of secession as leverage to do this...”

Sorens soon found that there were people who were eager to do the leg work needed to make the Free State Project a reality. After extensive organizational efforts, largely over the Internet, the Free State Project was officially formed on September 1, 2001.

Within a year, 1,000 people had signed up and had promised to move to whatever state was ultimately chosen by a vote of the entire membership. As a result of very effective online pledge drives, by the end of January 2003 there were 2,500 members.

A key organizer and promoter of the Free State Project from the beginning was Florida attorney Tim Condon. He was an early FSP mover to the rural town of Grafton, NH, (2009 population: 1220). As director of FSP member services in 2003, he wrote an online post entitled “*Making Peace with the Free State Project*”:

“The FSP is making history. Consider these facts: The leadership of the organization consists of people living in North Carolina, Nevada, Michigan, Texas, Florida, Arizona, and Russia (of all places)- Virtually none of them have ever met each other in person....

The organization is formed for the purpose of convincing 20,000 people to “sign up as members.” In order to become a member you have to promise to pull up stakes and leave your familiar surroundings to move yourself and your family to...an unknown location most likely a thousand or so miles away from where you and your family presently live.

The organization is nationwide, and involves scores, if not hundreds, of people working together, communicating, interacting, deciding, solving problems, debating issues, issuing directives, and directing operations on a daily basis. And they’ve never met each other....

Yet in the face of all expectations to the contrary, incredibly, the Free State Project continues its rapid growth, flabbergasting both the plentiful naysayers and all conventional opinion...

...How can that be? It has to do with the intersection of two historic trends, and the appearance of one individual with one good idea. ... The unrestricted, out-of-control

growth of government power is rubbing up against the just-as-explosive growth of the Internet and wide-band communications capabilities...

The Free State Project has harnessed the creativity and energies of volunteers all over the world with incredibly diverse skills and backgrounds. They've come together (in cyberspace) in the service of one overriding idea: How to find a place where people can live their lives as they see fit, unmolested by the constant depredations of regulatory government at all levels.

The result is the FSP, which expects to reach its 5,000 membership goal within 6 or 8 months, whereupon "the Free State" will be chosen by vote of the members. And then? And then watch out. Watch out for a "gradual explosion" in freedom, wealth creation, creativity and entrepreneurship, right here in America."

## **New Hampshire: The Chosen Land**

When **5,000** people had signed the Free State Project Statement of Intent on the Internet in the summer of 2003, they voted on which state to move to, after an exhaustive online analysis done of Alaska, Delaware, Idaho, Maine, Montana, New Hampshire, North Dakota, South Dakota, Vermont and Wyoming.

They voted to move to New Hampshire. Soon after the vote was taken, Governor Craig Benson (a rare one-term Republican governor) warmly welcomed current and potential FSP residents, which did wonders for promotional efforts underway at that time on the Internet. Some observers have said it was in part because of Benson's support that New Hampshire was chosen.

Founder Sorens rolled out the New Hampshire adventure to the national media in February 2004, at the Washington, D.C., corporate headquarters of the conservative American Enterprise Institute. Sorens was the key speaker at the Washington event, and explained to the gathering:

“New Hampshire doesn't have large metropolitan areas, which tend to be left-leaning... New Hampshire is poised to benefit if the United States returns to a true model of market-preserving federalism. One example is Social Security. New Hampshire could do much better if it were taking care of its own Social Security program, because its residents pay much more in Social Security taxes than they receive back in benefits...

...Once New Hampshire moves dramatically in a free market direction, we are going to continue to attract individuals and businesses from other states. And other states are going to have to reform their own laws in order to avoid losing their tax base to our state. So the Free State Project, in more ways than one, I think, is the thin end of the wedge in increasing liberty throughout the United States.”

Intensive promotional efforts began early on. Here is wording from a FSP online pledge drive in 2003, after New Hampshire had been chosen:

“New Hampshire was already one of the top states closest to the goal of liberty at the time of the state vote in 2003. At that time the participants chose New Hampshire among all of the ten candidate states to be the center of freedom in the United States...

... The state motto “Live Free or Die” personifies Granite State residents, who have an innate distrust of government and a lack of tolerance for it stepping out of bounds. The governorship is the weakest of all states due to constitutionally mandated checks and balances. The House of Representatives has 400 members which for this small state allows for perhaps the best representation in the country.

State reps are motivated by a desire to serve the people as evidenced by the fact that their compensation is \$100 year! Not professional politicians but rather concerned citizens are serving! For more information on New Hampshire visit the FSP NH Info webpages.

Already, early movers are having an impact towards a free society. Several early movers have run for office and some have won! Other early movers have been appointed to offices on school, budget, and planning committees/boards...”

The *freestateproject.org* website back in 2005 noted that recruiting efforts took many forms:

- “publicity stunts by our local groups.....
- advertising in libertarian publications
- press releases to the mainstream media
- radio and TV interviews
- direct mail to targeted lists of liberty friendly people
- the annual Porcupine Freedom Festival
- providing welcome guides for people visiting New Hampshire
- providing stories on the website of people who have made the move
- providing information on events of interest in NH
- including successful activism of people who've moved
- providing downloadable resources for individual activists looking to recruit new Free Staters”

“The birth of *The New Hampshire Underground* is providing more good news from the state every day. The welcome teams are more organized and are now holding monthly meetings....If you want to stay abreast of what's happening, even if you haven't (yet!) signed up for the FSP as a future migrator, you should still sign up to receive FSP news and announcement or join our discussion forum. You really don't want to miss out on the biggest libertarian story of the decade...”

The annual Porcupine Freedom Festival (Porc Fest) as well as the Liberty Forum have been providing opportunities each year for Free Staters who haven't moved to New Hampshire yet to learn about the State, make connections with other Free Staters, hear about political successes, and get information and training that will serve them well when they move here. These events have grown in scope over the past several years.

## Getting Organized in New Hampshire

In October of 2003, the Associated Press wrote about some members of the Free State Project living in NH who were celebrating the announcement that the State had been chosen:

“Granite Staters among the 5,400 free staters nationwide will meet Sunday in Bow to plan and assign tasks such as directing newcomers to real estate offices, schools and business opportunities. In Newfields, project member Julie DiCarlo is ready with information about New Hampshire's home-schooling laws and support groups. DiCarlo said her dissatisfaction with public schools was a catalyst for her to join the movement.

...(NH native Don) Gorman views himself as an elder statesman for the transition. Once leader of the four-member Libertarian caucus in the New Hampshire House, Gorman says he will train people who have political experience to run for that 400-member body....But scoring seats in the Legislature is a low priority for now, Gorman says.

Instead, Gorman wants project members to run for lesser offices like water commissioner and fire warden. ‘We want people to come here and learn about New England in general and New Hampshire,’ Gorman said. ‘We want them to get involved in the volunteer fire department, the playground committee, the library board. We want to be good neighbors.’

... Dante Scala is skeptical. ‘(New Hampshire's) libertarian leanings come from an attitude that says, basically, ‘leave us alone’. ‘So I don't know why they wouldn't give the same answer to this movement,’ says Scala, a political science professor at Saint Anselm College. ‘Even if Libertarians win some House seats, they will need to jump a major hurdle called the Republican Party. Republicans hold all statewide offices and have large majorities in the House and Senate.’ ”

Mr. Scala's comment was typical of others in the early days that downplayed the impact the Free State Project would have on New Hampshire.

But this article also shows that from the beginning, Free Staters saw things in a promising light, and rolled up their sleeves and got to work. Over the past decade, Free State leaders like Varrin Swearingen have said publicly that: "I tell people to think of the project like a bus...We'll bring you to the border and drop you off. After that, you're on your own."

In reality, however, once Free Staters got to New Hampshire, they were plugged into an extensive network of technically and politically savvy peers, just as motivated as they were and with whom they were philosophically aligned. They also got significant practical help with deciding where to live and how to find housing and employment in the Granite State. A strong social infrastructure has evolved, creating a real sense of community for the migrants.

## More Perspectives on the Free State Project, dating back to 2003

A slew of articles have been written on the Free State Project since 2003, and a few are quoted from here. The majority of the media coverage since 2003, except for Free State Project media, has ultimately been dismissive of the political importance of the FSP. Reporters have either been reluctant to really do the research involved, or reluctant to tell the story, - or both.

Meanwhile, FSP promoters have used the more flattering media pieces to entice more people to come to NH.

From *Foster's Daily Democrat* in 2003:

"Charlie Arlinghaus, president of the Josiah Bartlett center for public policy in Concord, said that a group of 20,000 activists is not likely to have a serious influence on the state's political scene in the next eight to 10 years. 'They want to move up 20,000 people and we have around 1.2 million already, so it won't be a dramatic effect. One of the traditions of New Hampshire is that people like to be left alone. If that's what these people want, this is a good place for them; if they're looking to take over a state, they should pick one with a smaller population.'

Arlinghaus also remains skeptical about how many Free Staters will actually come through on their pledge to move because of the effort required to find new homes and jobs. 'To uproot yourself,' he said, 'you have to quit your job, get a new job and a new house. They'll have to find jobs. Now, New Hampshire's going to lead the nation out of this economic downturn, but (still) that's a lot of job growth.'

James Pindell, who watches New Hampshire politics for the Web site PoliticsNH.com, also said the proportion of Free Staters to the rest of the population could minimize the group's impact. 'It's brilliant for them to pick New Hampshire. There are a lot of towns where they could have a lot of influence, but if their goal is to take over state government, that's another story. They're going to need a lot more people,' he said."

Here is an alternative perspective on the FSP from the same *Foster's* article, which the passage of time has shown to be more accurate than the others in it:

"Dave Corbin, a University of New Hampshire political science instructor, **said the Free Staters could accomplish many of their goals even if only a fraction of the proposed 20,000 moved here.** 'Those who are analyzing the potential effects of the group on the basis of numbers alone are not looking at the situation deeply enough', he said.

'Let's say only 4,000 of them move here. You wouldn't just say 'What's 4,000? That's only a drop in the electoral bucket.' That's not looking at the situation properly...When you talk about those people who are politically active in New Hampshire, you're only talking about 5,000 people; those are the people political candidates target. **If you have (only) 1,000 people (from the Free State Project) coming here to make a difference, they will,**' Corbin said.

Corbin pointed out how important activists are to any political campaign, as an index of the influence Free Staters could eventually achieve. Each individual activist represents not just one person, but all the people they will persuade. 'Any time you have a campaign and you have an activist, you know you have 20 or 30 times the number of votes as activists,' he said.



'Activists for any cause tend to replicate themselves', Corbin said. 'You have to look at activists exponentially. Every activist has an exponential value, because, as someone who believes in your message, they're going to go out and multiply it over and over,' he said.

' I can't tell you how many are going to come and what effect they're going to have when they get here, but I will say that **even 1,000 people who are politically motivated and willing to work can have a great deal of political success,**' Corbin said."

A *Concord Monitor* article from 2003 describes Governor Craig Benson's welcoming of the Free State Project to NH, at a gathering at the State House:

"...A few yards down, Ed Naile was running a table for the Coalition of New Hampshire Taxpayers. He said his group would show the Free Staters how to become active in local governments...Naile said the potential for even a few hundred Free Staters to influence local politics should not be underestimated. 'There are only five people on a school board', he said."

Reflections from 2005 in *The Wire* magazine - "The Free State Turns Two":

"To some state political watchers, the Free Staters are integrating nicely into the state's political culture. Charlie Arlinghaus is director of the Josiah Bartlett Center for Public Policy in Concord, a non-partisan think-tank, says 'Free Staters are coming here because they like New Hampshire, which is why most of us come here... It's not really any different than people who moved here from Massachusetts to escape the higher taxes,' he says. 'They like what we're doing, so they want to join us. I think what's promised is more of the same.'

Others find some Free Staters to be dangerous. Chaz Proulx is communications director for Democracy for New Hampshire and a founding member of the Seacoast Progressive Alliance... 'Libertarians have some good ideas,' Proulx says. 'The problem is they just open the door in a very naive way to the far right wing's agenda.' 'For the most part', he says 'Free Staters are well-meaning young people' who are lumped in with other, far more extreme, libertarians....they're also much too close to state gun groups. 'I've never seen the Free State Project nor the (New Hampshire) Liberty Alliance do anything to separate itself from people like that,' he says.

As for the future, Proulx also believes Free Staters will become a political force, but not a benign one. 'They'll influence local government with strong arm tactics,' according to Proulx, and seek to slash public education funding. 'They're very open about their anti-public education stance,' he says. 'You have them going into small towns, and the towns are already stressed out now with property taxes, and their message can resonate."

## FSP Political Involvement in NH

While Free Staters in New Hampshire share common political goals about liberty and freedom, they have their differences on how to achieve them. Some stay out of traditional politics, and focus on volunteer work of various kinds. And much has been written in the press about the civil disobedience activities that some Free Staters have gotten involved around the State.

But the most significant aspect of the Free State invasion of New Hampshire has been the extensive political infrastructure they've developed, with the intent of moving libertarian politics from the fringes to the very center of the NH Republican Party.

The Free State Project, at its heart, is concerned with working within New Hampshire's political system. Members have continually denied this, with the "once people get to New Hampshire, they are on their own" disclaimer. Perhaps this is how Free Staters have justified not necessarily mentioning that they are FSP participants, when they run for office.

## Gaining Strength through Alliances

While claiming that the Free State Project is not a political organization, from the beginning its members have been making strategic political moves - including creating the NH Liberty Alliance and the Republican Liberty Caucus of NH, - and getting Free State Project members into leadership positions in these organizations.

Both of these organizations were established to promote liberty principles, and especially to weed out moderate Republicans (RINOS, Republicans in Name Only) and replace them with more "liberty-minded" candidates. Both organizations have also provided funding for liberty candidates, which often gives these candidates a leg up on their opponents.

**The NH Liberty Alliance** was started in 2003 by Free Staters who had already moved to New Hampshire, along with some libertarian residents. Below is an excerpt from a Free State Project online discussion group in 2004, explaining the link between the FSP and the NH Liberty Alliance:

— "Everyone please ... join as a member of the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance now. This is an organization that was founded by FSP members already living in NH and we NEED your support. Basic membership is free (though we will be more than happy to take your donation) and every new member helps increase our political influence. Really...please go join now..."

FSP pledge drives on the Internet from the early days made note of the NH Liberty Alliance, and asked Free Staters to join the Alliance before they even moved to New Hampshire.

Here are excerpts from an in-depth article on the Free State Project written by libertarian activist Josh Eboch in 2009, entitled "Taking Liberty: Government, Political Activism, and the State of the Free State Project", which described how the NH Liberty Alliance operated from the beginning:

"One major part of the FSP system in NH is a state-registered lobbying organization, the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance. Formed in 2003, NHLA representative Denis Goddard said that the NH Liberty Alliance has trained numerous pro-liberty activists in the basics of coalition building.

Such tactics have long proven effective for pro-government organizers, but are too often ignored by the less-cohesive liberty movement. Especially valuable are mock town hall meetings, hosted by the NHLA, which offer public speaking practice and critique for citizens who wish to appear in session before the state legislature.

'It's mind-blowing when people find out that they can do this,' Goddard said. 'Folks who have a gift for public speaking can do more to pare back government in this state than those who are actually elected in other places'.

Every day during the legislative session, volunteers from the NHLA's "liberty lobby" greet lawmakers at the door to the Statehouse with fresh copies of their signature publication, *The Gold Standard*. Its printed sheets of yellow paper offer a liberty grade on every bill up for a vote that day. Often, said Goddard, representatives pause to discuss and debate various points right on the spot. Those interactions provide liberty lobbyists with a unique opportunity to challenge and refine legislators' assumptions regarding their own jobs and the role of government in a free society.

To make sure they are actually learning, once a year the NHLA rates each rep individually based on his or her votes, using a scale of "A" through "F." The very worst earn a designation of "CT" or "Constitutional Threat." Of course, it usually takes more than handing out grades to get an elected official's attention. So to make sure they got the message, last year the NHLA distributed 30,000 copies of its legislative report cards in major newspapers across the state.

**'There's nothing quite like a rep's constituents calling [them] and saying 'Did you know the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance considers you a threat to the Constitution?' said Goddard. 'Eventually, if they get enough harassing phone calls, they just quit,' he laughed. 'I love it when that happens.' "**

Don Gorman was one of the founders of the NH Liberty Alliance, and has been instrumental in helping Free State candidates and other aspiring liberty activists navigate the state's political waters. He started taking them to committee hearings in 2003, and introduced them to lawmakers. He taught them to speak in public, and to study the moves of experienced lobbyists.

He also recommended that the first step for liberty activists was to join the local volunteer fire department or planning board, and behave as a good citizen before seeking higher office. A large number of Free Staters in NH have followed that path.

A *Concord Monitor* article on the NH Liberty Alliance written in 2003 describes the tactics the organization used from its early days:

"Members of the project to bring 20,000 liberty-minded people to New Hampshire are forming a political action committee. Saturday marks one month since supporters of the Free State Project announced New Hampshire would be the stage for their revolution. And they will celebrate by signing paperwork to become the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance.

...Don Gorman, the former chair of the Libertarian caucus in the state House of Representatives, is in charge of political action for the alliance. Gorman, a chimney sweep who lives in Deerfield, **plans to score legislators on how liberty-minded they really are, and make the results public.**

**Alliance members will do this by dissecting bills and tracking legislators' voting records on pro- and anti-liberty legislation. ....Alliance members will then take their analysis and publish it on the Internet, or send it to taxpayers groups.**

Gorman said the Alliance does not intend to threaten candidates who vote for legislation they dislike. Instead, they want to sit down with them and try to change their mind. The best hope is probably to reach freshman, middle-of-the road legislators who are not hard-line liberals or conservatives, he said. 'We are not just going to do like most people, sign petitions and testify on a bill and jump up and down in front of the Statehouse,' Gorman said.

'We are going to either sit down and reason with these individuals or try to replace them' by running for office. If no candidates file in a district, the Alliance would seize the opportunity to elect one of their own. 'I won't say we are going to be a smashing success. But are we significant? Yes,' Gorman said. **'It gives you a foundation. It gives you something to build on. I think that foundation is going to be very solid.'** "

Mr. Gorman is running for State Rep again in 2012, on the foundation he has helped to build.

The NH Liberty Alliance website shows the liberty candidates the organization endorsed for the 2012 election. It also explains the Liberty Rating report card that is used to rate candidates.

"The **Liberty Rating** report card is based on pro-liberty and anti-liberty votes and their impact on the State of New Hampshire—actual, recorded floor votes on legislation in the House and Senate. Bills have been carefully selected for inclusion which clearly demonstrate the level of respect our elected representatives show for our individual rights and liberties.

...The Liberty Rating is the result of hundreds of hours of work by many volunteers who have read and analyzed bills, testified before committees, called and written their representatives, worked on our other signature publication, *The Gold Standard* and culled extensive data from legislative voting records.

We encourage New Hampshire citizens to learn the facts about how their elected representatives are voting in Concord and to use this tool to hold them accountable. This report card serves as a valuable voter guide when these same reps are running for re-election."

The NH Liberty Alliance has also been very effective at connecting the various liberty organizations operating in the State as well as outside of it. For example, the Alliance's website advertised the NH chapter of Americans for Prosperity training back in 2010, in the lead-up to the elections that year.

"This will give you the tools you need to be an effective activist for your cause. This is so important because November Is Coming!!! Are you ready for it? Please pre-register NOW and join HERMAN CAIN, Americans for Prosperity, Cornerstone Policy Research, and American Majority for our special activist training on June 5th.

The day will also include breakout sessions sponsored by American Majority that will teach you how to use new media and social networking to get a message out, micro target at the precinct level, and recruit new activists to your organization."

Members of the Free State Project also founded **the Republican Liberty Caucus of NH** (RLCNH), which like the NH Liberty Alliance works aggressively to get liberty candidates elected. This organization is a chapter of the national Republican Liberty Caucus that was founded in 1991 "to promote individual liberty, limited government and free enterprise within the Republican party structure". The New Hampshire chapter is said to be one of the organization's most-active chapters.

Early FSP mover Tim Condon was one of the key organizers of the national Republican Liberty Caucus (RLC) in the 1990's, and was paid by the organization's Board of Directors to organize the NH chapter in 2004. In 2006, Mr. Condon spoke on the Internet site *Granitegrok* (which he also helped found) about creating the RLCNH:

“...I’m a committed participant and former member of the national board of directors of the Free State Project, which is what drew me to New Hampshire in the first place.

In 2004 I founded the Republican Liberty Caucus of New Hampshire, and continue to work within the state's political system and the NH GOP to effect beneficial change through lower taxes, lower spending, free enterprise policies, smaller state government, and expanded personal responsibility under the Constitutions of New Hampshire and the United States of America.”

For the past several years, the RLCNH has sent surveys to State Senate and House candidates, and endorses candidates who meet certain criteria, based on their responses and voting records. Those candidates then get financial and administrative support, as well as networking opportunities.

The RLCNH recently developed “Common Sense for New Hampshire”, which it says is an agenda to build momentum in the State Legislature for laws that will promote jobs and economic opportunity, fix health care in New Hampshire, and restore and protect the rights of parents. **The overall goal is to “help shape the narrative that comes out of the Republican Party”.**

Josh Eboch’s previously quoted article on the FSP provides some insights on how the RLCNH functions:

“...The cost of disregarding Free Staters continues to rise. During the 2008 election season, Chris Lawless, a Porcupine and Hopkinton town selectman, formed a political action committee (**The Republican Liberty Caucus PAC**) with his friend and colleague, Jim Forsythe, himself a passionate advocate of small government, though not officially a member of the FSP. Lawless and Forsythe’s PAC raised \$100,000 to support the state-level campaigns of project members and others willing to use their office to further the cause of individual liberty.

Speaking at the 2009 FSP-hosted Liberty Forum in Nashua, Forsythe drew enthusiastic applause when he told a group of home schooling parents about his intention to hang one meddlesome lawmaker's "pelt on the wall" in an upcoming election.

Targeting specific officials for political retribution sends a clear warning to other legislators that those who try to limit freedoms risk negative electoral consequences. **‘The state [Republican] Party knows what we're doing,’ Lawless said with a grin. ‘We have a hit list... If you screw us, we're gonna take you out.’ ”**

Here is a quote from the RLCNH website prior to the November 2010 elections:

“On Friday night, members of the Republican Liberty Caucus in New Hampshire converged in Concord to set the tone for the upcoming election cycle. After a discussion about the history of the Republican Liberty Caucus from Tim Condon and Dan McGuire, Dr. Jim Forsythe discussed his newly formed New Hampshire Republican Liberty PAC, which is designed to get pro-liberty candidates elected in the State, **and raised over \$30,000 in the last election cycle, dividing that money to over 50 endorsed candidates**. The desire is to continue to use the PAC and incorporate it into the NH Republican Liberty Caucus.”

## The 2010 Election

The 2010 election was widely seen as a backlash against President Obama and the Democratic Party, and as a rise of the Tea Party across the country, including in New Hampshire.

But as this booklet shows, NH Republicans running for office in 2010 also benefited significantly from the political framework the Free State Project had been putting in place since 2003, - through the NH Liberty Alliance and the Republican Liberty Caucus of NH.

These organizations had been perfecting a strategy to push moderate Republicans out of the way, and it worked extremely well in the 2010 election.

From a post on the NH Liberty Alliance website shortly after the November 2010 election:

“Congratulations to all the candidates on your tremendous victory in this year's state elections. We are proud to announce that **out of the 137 candidates the NH Liberty Alliance had endorsed going into the general election, 119 were successful. This is a most exciting time, and a big win for the NHLA, New Hampshire, and liberty...**”

Here is an article posted on the NH Liberty Alliance site's forum in December of 2010: “The Election after the Elections, How Liberty Took Hold in the NH State House”:

“It's true that the 2010 State House election results were the best ever for liberty candidates in New Hampshire. Around 14 Free State Project participants were elected. Dozens of libertarians were elected. Almost everyone the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance endorsed won. However, it is also clear that not all of the 298 GOPers (to 102 Dems) that control the NH State House are pro-liberty the vast majority of the time. Even though the GOP is far better in NH than almost any other state, there are still problems.

“The State Reps voted for Speaker of the House. It was a close race against a typical GOPer with a lot of experience and a generally pro-liberty GOPer that hangs out with the NHLA and helped co-chair the House Republican Alliance, the organization of NH State GOP Reps that are fiscally libertarian/conservative and are generally socially conservative. **Bill O'Brien (A- rating by the NHLA), the House Republican Alliance (HLA) co-chair, became NH Speaker of the House by less than 10 votes.**

“Normally, the Speaker of the House picks the Majority Leader. However, 2 of the 3 top people that wanted to be Majority Leader were highly pro-liberty and O'Brien decided to let the State Reps vote on it. **D.J. Bettencourt (B+ rating by the NHLA), the most pro-liberty person running for Majority Leader, won the election.**

....This is the most pro-liberty State House leadership in the modern history of NH.

Bonus: Some NH State Reps decided that they wanted to create a group that is even more pro-liberty than the House Republican Alliance so they created the Natural Rights Caucus. These are libertarians....”

The Natural Rights Caucus, comprised largely of Free State Project participants, is now called the Natural Rights Council.

Here is Free Stater Tim Condon reflecting on the 2010 election, in a post at the Yahoo FSP group, in January of 2011:

“(It is) still early in the process. Only about 900(self) identified Freestaters have moved into the state...but there are already \*huge\* inroads being made.

Bill O'Brien couldn't have been elected as Speaker of the House without the support of politically active Freestaters in the Republican Party.

Jack Kimball couldn't have been elected chairman of the party without the support of Republican Freestaters.

And the laws and rules being changed to (1) make concealed carry legal inside the state house, (2) switch voting in NH to some method of Concorcet, (3) allow any citizen to videotape any police officer or other state employee while acting as an agent of the state, (4) allow defense attorneys to explain to jurors about jury nullification and their power to nullify laws, (5) and many others of similar import...all those couldn't be happening right now without the help and support of politically active Freestaters in NH.

**And we haven't even started yet.... I've always seen the FSP as a 30-year plus movement and project. We're now about seven years into it, and the number that triggers the migration hasn't even been reached yet. ...but the fact is, it's beginning to happen.**

Oh yeah, one other thing: Yes, we've got a Democrat governor. We've also got veto-proof Republican majorities in the state house, the state senate, and the state executive council. They all believe in the NH State GOP Platform, which is pretty damned good. The Democrat governor has become almost irrelevant.

**In 2012 we'll have a Republican governor, in touch with and supported by Republican Freestaters from all over NH."**

Mr. Condon again, speaking with the Yahoo FSP group in January of 2011.

"The point is, there are dozens of libertarians and libertarian-conservatives in elected political positions in New Hampshire, and hundreds more in various important activist and leadership positions.

The more that Free State Project people migrate into New Hampshire, as intended, the more attractive the state will become to other liberty-lovers. That in turn will increase the volume and speed of the migration...and so forth. It will soon become a beneficial cycle that will continue to benefit New Hampshire and all its people.

We're not anywhere near "there" yet, but I can tell you that there are dozens of laws being pushed and considered by the state legislature this year that every libertarian and libertarian-conservative will be thrilled with. These laws are opposed by all Democrats and other statists (including bad Republicans), they will be vetoed by Democratic Gov. John Lynch, and they will be passed by the state legislature over the governor's veto.

These types of bills run the gauntlet from reductions in spending, to reductions in state government power, to reductions in taxes and fees, to increasing personal liberty in various ways, to evening up the power imbalance between the political/ government/ ruling classes and the people of New Hampshire, and many others.

Watch what is happening in the Free State, everyone! You will see what a determined, vocal, and increasingly effective minority of liberty-lovers---eventually to become a majority---can do!"

It should be noted that Mr. Condon is the Chair of the NH Legal Rights Foundation. The Vice Chair is Bill O'Brien. The organization was in the headlines briefly some months ago, when Mr. O'Brien announced that D.J. Bettencourt would become its Executive Director, after stepping down from his post as Majority Leader of the NH House.

A *Concord Monitor* article in May 2012 concerning these events includes a somewhat suspect quote from Mr. Condon, - considering other statements he has made in recent years about how well the Free State Project is doing, and some big plans for the FSP in the future:

“Both Condon and board member Bob Hull previously held positions within the Free State Project, which seeks to recruit libertarians to move to New Hampshire, but Condon said they are no longer directly affiliated with the movement.

‘I’ve kind of distanced myself from them,’ Condon, a Grafton resident, said yesterday from Florida, where he operates his law practice. ‘I agree with the concept of people who want to exercise their individual rights . . . but I don’t approve of what the group has become.’

Here is a revealing quote from an article on the Republican Liberty Caucus of NH website from April of 2011, written several months after the Legislature had gotten to work. It’s entitled “New Hampshire on the Move”:

**“The New Hampshire Republican Liberty Caucus is playing kingmaker in state politics. In addition to having a tremendous say on specific legislative measures — such as the Right to Work and the House-approved budget — they’ve also advanced the RLC’s mission by helping elect a Speaker of the House, Majority Leader, and State GOP Chair who are each friendly to the liberty message……”**

Early Free State Project organizer and mover Dan McGuire was elected to the NH House for the first time in the 2010 election. Soon after, he replaced Bill O’Brien as the co-chair of the highly influential House Republican Alliance.

Rep McGuire sponsored 17 bills for the 2011 Legislative session, and 42 bills for the 2012 session. He also served on the House Finance Committee from 2010-2012.

Rep. McGuire was highlighted in an article written for the website *LibertarianRepublican.net*, a few days after the 2010 election. A quote from the article:

**“We have an unprecedented opportunity, with a roughly 300-100 Republican majority, and lots of libertarians in the mix, to shrink state government, something that has only happened once in a very minor way in the past 60 years.”**

Rep. McGuire also stated in two different posts on the FSP Yahoo group in early 2011:

**“We just captured 75% of the legislature”. .. “He asked: ‘Is there even any kind of list of Tea Partiers? All the people I’ve seen at Tea Party rallies and events are the same people who have been with us all along: CNHT (Citizens for NH Taxpayers), NH Liberty Alliance, gun groups, etc.**

**All of the Porcupines in the State House are Republicans. This isn’t a coincidence. We made the difference in electing a conservative House leadership over the good old boys. As a consequence we were appointed to several positions in leadership.’ “**

An enlightening post from the FSP Yahoo group back in 2006 makes note of Dan McGuire, along with some big plans the Free State Project had at that time:

“The Republican Liberty Caucus of New Hampshire (RLCNH), that is, the real Republicans in the Free State, not the fakers known as “RINO’s” (Republicans In Name Only) have announced they’re heading up a very cool program on Friday, June 23, 2006, the First day of the 3rd Annual PorcFest.



RLCNH chairman, MIT graduate (with a Ph.D.), Free State Project early mover (from Washington state), and political activist Dan McGuire will explain about how to choose and generate an effective "campaign theme" when you decide to run for public office (as many of us eventually must). At 4:00 p.m. on Friday, Dan will give an overall introduction to the Republican Liberty Caucus.

**Many of us.....have concluded that the best way to influence New Hampshire politics in the direction of lower taxes, smaller government, property rights, individual freedom, respect for the Constitution, support for personal privacy, and other individual rights...is through becoming active within the Republican Party of New Hampshire.**

While it is true that many Republicans are just as socialist-oriented as many Democrats in the state legislature at present, it is also true that ALL of the most libertarian and freedom-oriented New Hampshire legislators are currently Republicans.

**By becoming active as Republicans in the Free State, we can double and triple that number. We can also see that RINO's, "Democrats who masquerade as Republicans for the sole purpose of getting elected---are unmasked and driven from public office."**

Since the 2010 elections, Republicans in the New Hampshire Legislature have proposed an extraordinary number of radical bills,- in large part playing out the grand scenarios described by Tim Condon and Dan McGuire. Many of these bills were either sponsored or co-sponsored by Free Staters. These Republicans have made it clear over the past two years that their goal is to deconstruct much of NH State government.

## New Hampshire Waking Up ?

A recent post in an online Ron Paul forum acknowledges the continued success of the Republican Liberty Caucus of NH in eliminating moderate Republican candidates for the Legislature, - this time in the September 2012 primary races:

“124 out of 145 of the Republican Liberty Caucus of New Hampshire endorsed or recommended candidates successfully advanced past the September 11th New Hampshire Republican Primary.

That means 86% of the RLCNH endorsed or recommended candidates were nominated as Republican candidates, and will appear on a general election ballot on November 6th. The 124 candidates include 116 candidates for state representative, 6 candidates for state senator and 2 candidates for executive councilor.

The list includes many people who endorsed Ron Paul such as co-chair of the 2012 New Hampshire Ron Paul Campaign - Sen. Andy Sandborn, Rep. Mark Warden, Rep. Steve Vaillancourt, Rep. Guy Comtois and Rep. George Lambert.

‘As an organization that is trying to push the envelope in the Republican Party to bring liberty and prosperity to New Hampshire by electing liberty-minded, conservative legislators, these consistent results indicate that our efforts so far have been successful,’ said Carolyn McKinney, chairman of the Republican Liberty Caucus of New Hampshire. Read more about this success story on the RLCNH website.”

A recent letter in the *Goffstown News* makes it very clear that in 2012, the “liberty infrastructure” in NH has continued with the same tactics that worked so well back in 2010.

“Goffstown's Republican primary leaves voters a clear choice in November. House Speaker Bill O'Brien gave the word to oust moderate Republican Rep. Russ Day and defeat candidate Todd Weeks. Right-wing organizations took a cue from the Tea Party favorite and sent out post cards to smear Day and Weeks. What was their crime? Rep. Day voted his conscience on anti-union bills, women's choice and marriage equality. Weeks is a firefighter.”

But this same letter also shines the light on some legislators, including one or two Free Staters, whose voting records now precede them:

“The Republican reps left standing have pursued a radical far-right agenda. Reps. John Burt, John Hikel and Mark Warden all voted to repeal public kindergarten. They also voted to lower the dropout age, and to eliminate the requirement that all children receive an education at school or at home.

All three reps. voted to eliminate all licensing requirements to carry concealed handguns. They voted for the 'Stand your Ground' bill that would allow gun owners to shoot first in public places when they feel threatened, even when retreat is possible. All three reps. voted to develop a plan to privatize the Department of Corrections.

They voted to reduce revenue from cigarette, land line and meals and rooms taxes, costing the state tens of millions in revenue. At the same time, all three voted to slash funding for the CHINS program, drug and alcohol abuse prevention, and foster grandparent reimbursement. They voted to eliminate the New Hampshire Healthy Kids program and defund New Hampshire Public Television. Reps. Hikel and Burt also voted for a lot of bad bills that Rep. Warden didn't show up to vote on. ...”

Check the Appendix of this booklet, to see a detailed summary of how 3 Free State legislators, - State Reps. Andrew Manuse, Dan McGuire, and Mark Warden voted on some of the key bills proposed in 2011 and 2012. Included in this summary are some of the bills in key policy areas that they either sponsored or co-sponsored.

It is worth noting that all three legislators are members of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), an organization composed of conservative legislators, businesses and foundations, which produces model legislation for state legislatures around the country.

With relatively few exceptions, the other FSP legislators in the NH House voted the same way as Reps. Manuse, McGuire and Warden. If you study their records, you'll see that the legislation they sometimes differed on tended to be related to issues like gay marriage, women's reproductive rights, and voting rights, - where the actual playing out of the liberty theme perhaps gets a bit more complicated.

*NH Magazine* interviewed Free State Project president Carla Gericke in 2011:

*"Since the Free State movement is not political, does that mean you always get to give straight answers?"* Er, em, uh, yes.

*So give it to me straight. How's the movement going?*

This is an exciting time for us. We have crossed the halfway mark to recruiting 20,000 liberty lovers to pledge to move to New Hampshire to create a more free society. I appreciate this sounds scary to some, but think of us as localization on steroids, as wanting to create an even more prosperous state than New Hampshire already is --- a Yankee Hong Kong, if you will.

More than 800 activists have already moved, and we are hard at work in our communities to create a society based on voluntary exchange, free from state coercion. As government grows and becomes more intrusive, I believe we will continue to gain momentum. We also have strong local support, with Friends of the Free State signing up all the time.

*Any particular high and low points over the past few years?*

As an organization, the Free State Project does not take positions on what participants do once they get here. It's more the vehicle, the "bus" to convince liberty-leaning individuals to move. Once in New Hampshire, people exercise individual activism in different ways.

They run for office --- twelve participants are now state reps--they do localized outreach like volunteering at fire departments, they form non-profits like the New Hampshire Liberty Alliance that rates representatives according to their voting records, they manage successful businesses, and they practice civil disobedience in the spirit of Gandhi and Martin Luther King. The media tends to focus on the latter because it is by its very nature more controversial, but rest assured Free Staters are good neighbors who like ice-cream too.

*Any second thoughts about choosing New Hampshire as the Free State?*

Absolutely not. I have lived all over the world, and I love it here. New Hampshire has so much to offer: a ready-built individualist culture -- Live Free or Die, Baby! -- and it is consistently named one of the best places in America to live. With its low crime rate, favorable gun laws, healthy living, buoyant economy, low taxes and no personal state

income tax (which I view as a form of slavery), it is the perfect place for productive people to settle.”

It all sounds so public spirited, and harmless.

Ms. Gericke did not attend a gathering across from the NH State House in the late spring of 2011, shortly after the Legislative session had ended. But Jason Sorens was there, along with William Ruger, a professor at Texas State University.

Their study “Freedom in the 50 States: An Index of Personal and Economic Freedom” had recently been published by the Mercatus Center. They were in Concord to announce that this study indicated that New Hampshire was the Freest state in the country.

Speaker Bill O’Brien was initially at the gathering, but had to leave before the presentation began. Several FSP legislators and other legislators were present. Some protesters who were there said the legislators looked rather triumphant, - after a very successful Legislative session.

Rep. Lee Quandt is a Republican State legislator who has tried to stand for moderation over the past two years. He occasionally spoke out against the Free State Project in his blog during that time. Here is an entry from it, written after a letter was circulated about him by some FSP State Reps.:

“Bring it on,” he said.....After the next election when we clean house and throw these people out of office the “closed” sign will go up in NH and this social experiment gone awry will end and the Free State project can go to a good old boy southern state and try to impress them with their ideas for a new order.”

Here is a letter recently published in the *Goffstown News*, which has its own take on Free Staters settling in New Hampshire and getting deeply involved in NH politics:

“The cowbird lays its eggs in other birds’ nests, where they’re raised by the other bird parents, displacing their own nestlings because of the aggressive cowbird behavior.

The Tea Party and Free State movements are doing the same thing to the Republican Party. In Goffstown, Weare and Deering, District 39 state representative candidate Mark Warden is one of the leaders of the Free State movement --- a fact that he keeps quiet as he seeks traditional Republican votes.

Free Staters aim to take over New Hampshire, just like the cowbird, ultimately abolishing public education, safety nets for the elderly and disabled, parks and recreation and just about everything else we take for granted. Google Mark Warden and read about him yourself - you’ll be surprised at how extreme he is.

Fortunately we have a good alternative for the seat. Aaron Gill, a bright young businessman familiar especially with small business needs, is a moderate Democrat - the kind of candidate the Republicans used to field before extremist cow birds took over their nest. He deserves our votes.”

**More New Hampshire residents need to wake up to the reality of the Free State Project.**

**We can't wait for the Union Leader and NH Public Radio to fill us in on how expansive the Free State Project's plans are for New Hampshire, - and how this plan is playing out now on the ground. We need to find out for ourselves, and we need to tell others.**

**We need to confront Free Staters in our towns, and at all levels of government. And then we need to force them, as proper citizens, to have endless conversations with their fellow residents about New Hampshire's future.**

**We cannot let them make over the State of New Hampshire in their own libertarian image.**

## Appendix

Below is a summary of how 3 Free State legislators - State Reps. Andrew Manuse, Dan McGuire, and Mark Warden voted on some of the key bills proposed by members of the NH Legislature in 2011 and 2012. Also included in this summary are some of the bills in key policy areas that these legislators either sponsored or co-sponsored.

This list is not comprehensive, - and is meant to be informative. Most of the data was obtained from [www.granitestateprogress.org](http://www.granitestateprogress.org).

### **Guns & Deadly Weapons**

Rep. McGuire, Rep. Manuse and Rep. Warden voted for the "Stand Your Ground" bill modeled after ALEC model legislation. Under existing law, people in their own home do not need to retreat when they perceive a threat or are threatened. This bill extends that to public spaces -- such as street corners, shopping malls, public parks and retail stores. HB210

They voted to allow guns on college campuses and dorms, in athletic stadiums and public parks and beaches. HB334

They voted to allowing deadly weapons into the State House chambers. HB160

They voted to eliminate licensing requirements for NH residents to own and carry firearms such as pistols and revolvers, "whether openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded." HB536

They voted to overturn established law that prohibited carrying loaded rifles and shotguns in vehicles. HB194

They voted to allow any person, meeting certain statutory requirements, to carry a firearm, openly or concealed, loaded or unloaded, on or about their person or upon or in a vehicle, whether or not such person possesses a license, permit, or other authorization to carry a firearm. This bill also removed the requirement that non-residents obtain a license to possess a firearm while in New Hampshire. HB330

They voted to allow the use of deadly force within one's home. According to the Assistant Attorney General, it would grant the shooter immunity from criminal prosecution, and make it very difficult for law enforcement officials to investigate a case. HB567

They voted to allow the use of firearms and fireworks in crowded, heavily populated cities and towns. HB1341

### **Public Safety**

Rep. McGuire sponsored a bill to repeal the criminal history record and protective order check for the sale of firearms. HB1220

Rep Warden sponsored a bill to allow convicted felons access to deadly weapons. The Judicial Branch stated this bill would also decriminalize certain weapons offenses by convicted felons by changing the penalty from a class B felony to a misdemeanor. All three State Reps voted in favor of the bill. HB1511

All three Reps. voted for repealing licensing requirements for professions including beauticians, landscape architects, etc. HB1446

They voted to prohibit the police from establishing sobriety checkpoints. HB1452

They voted in favor of delaying motor vehicle inspections by a year. HB1693

They voted to weaken the motorcycle rider education program. HB1503

They voted against establishing a program to help address the effects of prescription drug addiction in New Hampshire. SB286

They voted to repeal major sections of the anti-bullying law. HB370

They voted for prohibiting vaccinations in public schools. HB422

They voted to suspend funds derived from a portion of liquor sales for the alcohol abuse prevention and treatment fund. HB2

They voted against funding to restore seven positions with the State Police within the Dept. of Safety. HB1

### **The Budget**

They voted to pass a state budget that eliminated essential health services for the most vulnerable residents, and severely cut essential health services for the elderly and disabled. HB1

They voted against restoring employment related child care to assist families struggling to stay in the work force. HB1

They voted for eliminating the NH Healthy Kids program and placed the majority of those children into Medicaid managed care. HB2

They voted to repeal prevention programs for at-risk children and the incentive grants for those programs. HB2

They voted to cut funding for the Children in Need of Services (CHINS) program which provides care, treatment, guidance, counseling, discipline, supervision, and rehabilitative resources to help children and their families. They voted for lowering the cigarette tax. HB2

### **Education**

Rep Manuse sponsored HB595, along with several other FSP members and other legislators. The bill proposed to amend the compulsory school attendance statutes to permit parent-directed instruction programs and repeal the home education statutes.

Rep. Warden co-sponsored HB1424, which would prohibit a school district from requiring that a parent send his or her child to any school or participating in any school program or curriculum to which the parent is conscientiously opposed.

Rep McGuire was a co-sponsor of HB1607, which established an education credit against the business profit tax. The intent of the bill was to divert taxpayer money to private and religious schools. This bill was modeled after ALEC model legislation.

All three legislators voted to abolish the state Department of Education. HB1713

They voted to override the Governor's veto of a bill that would allow parents to object to any school curriculum for any reason. HB542

They voted to amend the N.H. Constitution to give politicians full control over school funding, including the power to fund private religious and charter schools with public dollars. CACR8

They voted to repeal public kindergarten. HB631

They voted for lowering the age at which teenagers can drop out of school. HB429

They voted to eliminate compulsory school attendance, including removing from NH's Child Protection Act the requirement that parents educate their children. HB595

They voted for eliminating teacher evaluations and allowing a teacher to be fired at the sole discretion of the school board, without reason. SB196

They voted for the Budget bill that defunded the University of NH by \$50 million.

Rep. McGuire and Rep. Manuse voted against funding to restore the community college system of New Hampshire. HB1 Rep. Warden didn't vote on the bill.

### **Worker's Rights/Unions**

Rep. Manuse co-sponsored a bill that allowed a public employer, not the employees to call for an election to decertify a local union when the membership fell below 50%. HB1645

All three Reps. voted for the "Right to Work" bill. This bill was modeled after ALEC model legislation. HB474

They voted to restrict workers' ability to form a union. This bill was modeled after ALEC Model legislation. HB589

They voted on a bill that prohibited collective bargaining agreements that require employees to join a labor union. HB1677

They voted to give politicians veto power over state employee collective bargaining agreements. HB1666

### **Health Care**

Rep Manuse co-sponsored a bill that required the Commissioner of the Insurance Department to return \$333,000 in exchange planning grants to the federal Department of Health and Human Services. HB1727

Rep Manuse co-sponsored a bill to prohibit NH from participating in a health benefit exchange. Rep Manuse, Rep McGuire, and Rep Warden later voted in favor of the bill. The exchange allows NH residents to compare health insurance plans and prices, potentially leading to more competition and transparency. HB1297

Reps McGuire and Rep. Manuse voted for an Interstate Health Care Compact that with the permission of Congress would give participating states the authority to opt out of all federal health care protections and programs, including Medicare, Medicaid and the Affordable Care Act. Rep Warden didn't vote on the bill. HB1560. This bill was modeled after ALEC model legislation.

They voted to require the Attorney General to join the lawsuit challenging the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, and for the State of New Hampshire to return federal grants related to the new health law. SB148. This bill was modeled after ALEC model legislation.



They voted to repeal current coverage of children's early intervention therapy services, diagnosis and treatment of pervasive developmental disorder or autism, bariatric surgery for obesity, certified midwife services, and hearing aids. HB309

They voted to require the attorney general to join the lawsuit challenging the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. HB89

### **Women's Health**

They voted to allow any employer to deny coverage for contraception based on the employer's personal beliefs. HB1546

They voted to limit women's access to health care by prohibiting the state from contracting with hospital or health care providers that provide general abortion services. The bill put in jeopardy \$700 million in Federal Medicaid matching funds. HB228

Rep. McGuire and Rep. Manuse voted to remove comprehensive preventive health services for women, such as contraception, from benefits expected to be covered by insurance companies. Rep. Warden didn't vote on the bill. HR29

Reps McGuire and Manuse voted to require parental notification before a minor receives an abortion, with no exception for victims of rape, incest or abuse, and no maternal health exception. Rep. Warden didn't vote on the bill. HB329. The legislation was based on ALEC model legislation.

### **Marriage Equality**

Rep. McGuire voted on a bill (HB437) to repeal the 2009 law passed that allowed gay and lesbian couples to marry. Reps Manuse and Warden didn't vote on. HB437

All three Reps. voted to legally allow a business to discriminate against any couple they might find objectionable, including gay, interracial, or mixed religion couples. HB1264

### **Infrastructure/ Planning/Environment**

Rep McGuire co-sponsored HB218, a bill to repeal the New Hampshire Rail Transit Authority. All three Reps voted in favor of the bill. The NHRTA was established to develop and provide commuter rail or other similar forms of passenger rail service for NH. All three legislators also voted to override Governor Lynch's veto of the final version of the bill.

Rep. McGuire co-sponsored HB1561, a bill to discontinue regional planning commissions.

Rep. Manuse and Rep Warden and some other legislators co-sponsored a bill to establishing a committee to study the feasibility of allowing towns to split into smaller subdivisions. HB1160

All three legislators voted to repeal NH's participation in RGGI, the regional greenhouse gas initiative, in both 2011 and 2012. HB519. The legislation was based on ALEC model legislation.

Reps. McGuire and Manuse voted to cut funding for the Highway Fund, which supports the construction, reconstruction, and maintenance of public highways. Rep. Warden didn't vote on the bill. SB378

All three Reps voted against establishing a commission to encourage broadband service for

the public throughout New Hampshire, particularly in areas that are poorly served or not served at all. HB365. They also voted against allowing municipalities to bond for and build out the broadband infrastructure they need for economic development, job creation, local services delivery, and educational opportunities. HB389

They voted to abolish New Hampshire Public Television. HB113

They voted to allow towns to decide whether workforce housing should be approved for a municipality. This would eliminate the requirement that every community provide "reasonable and realistic opportunities" for the development of workforce housing, so that young families and working families can get housing they can afford. HB368

They voted to remove several key programs from the Office of Energy and Planning: land use board member training; the water protection assistance program; housing and conservation planning; the high-level radioactive waste act; and economic development reporting. HB2

They voted for the bill that prohibited the State from participating in any low carbon fuel standards program that required quotas, caps, or mandates on fuels used for transportation, industrial purposes, or home heating, without prior legislative approval. HB1487

They voted to water down significantly the PACE statute that was established in 2010 to enable municipalities to establish revolving loan funds to finance energy efficiency and renewable energy projects for both residential and commercial properties. HB144

### **State/Federal Government**

Rep McGuire co-sponsored a bill to consider whether New Hampshire should accept federal grants. He and Rep. Manuse voted in favor of the bill. Rep Warden didn't vote on it. HB90

Reps McGuire and Manuse voted to ask Congress to privatize all aspects of Social Security. Rep Warden didn't vote on the bill. HCR39. The bill was modeled after ALEC model legislation.

They voted to affirm States' powers based on the US Constitution and NH Constitution. HCR19. This bill was modeled after ALEC model legislation.

They voted to require the US Congress to reaffirm its adherence to the Constitution of the United States regarding international agreements and treaties. HCR6

They voted to challenge the Federal government's powers under the Commerce Clause. HB324

They voted in favor of the United States withdraw from the United Nations..HCR32

They voted to overturning all FDA regulations on food products if they were made in New Hampshire. This bill also sought to make it a misdemeanor for state or federal employees to enforce federal laws and regulations in NH. HB1650

### **Legislative Overreach**

Rep. McGuire, Manuse voted to abolish the constitutional review of laws by the judicial branch of our government. Rep. Warden didn't vote on the bill. CACR28

All three Reps voted for weakening the authority of the Chief Justice of the State Supreme Court to fairly administer the judiciary system. CACR26

They voted for violating the separation of powers by ordering the N.H. Attorney General to join a lawsuit against the Affordable Care Act. HB440