

The New Hampshire Senate
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Republicans oppose new income tax for paid family and medical leave program

Concord, NH - Today, the New Hampshire Senate voted ought to pass on SB 1, a paid family and medical leave bill funded with a 0.5% income tax. The legislation never had an independent actuarial analysis to ensure that it is a solvent program and Senate Democrats voted down an amendment requiring an analysis to be performed. Senate Republican Leader Chuck Morse (R-Salem), Senator John Reagan (R-Deerfield) and Senator Bob Giuda (R-Warren) issued the following statements:

"In the second Senate session of the year, the Senate Democrats have passed an income tax," said Senate Republican Leader Chuck Morse (R-Salem). "This legislation will suppress the growth of some companies and shutter the doors of others that will be unable to comply with the onerous taxes and regulations of the program. It is particularly burdensome for the thousands of small businesses across the state who will have to pass the expense onto their employees, taking money out of their pockets."

"I have expressed support for a paid family and medical leave program in the past, but SB 1 is not the way to do it," said Senator Bob Giuda (R-Warren). "This legislation was rushed through the legislative process preventing the Senate from altering the bill to make it the best it can be. During the committee hearing there were several opponents who had concerns about the cost of implementation and using an income tax as a funding mechanism. I wish these concerns were addressed and because they were not I cannot support this program."

"I worked throughout the summer with stakeholders advancing a similar plan proposed by Governor Sununu which is a more effective way to implement paid family and medical leave without additional government bureaucracy," Giuda added.

"It is disappointing that the Senate passed a bill taxing the income of hard working Granite Staters and giving the authority to alter tax rates to an unelected department commissioner," said Senator John Reagan (R-Deerfield). "SB 1 is nothing more than another mandate that hurts businesses and will lower the take home pay of every worker in the state. With record unemployment and businesses competing for good workers, most employers are already offering this benefit without government interference. The Senate should be promoting policies that continue to grow the economy rather than supporting policies that will lead to closed businesses and worker layoffs."

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