



**STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR**

**CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU**  
Governor

Senate Finance Committee  
State House, Room 103  
Concord, NH

March 10, 2020

Dear Members of the Senate Finance Committee,

As you know, tackling student debt and investing in our students through innovative channels has been a major priority of my administration.

In my proposed budget, I included a \$16 million-per-year innovative student debt assistance and workforce recruitment program that would have cost New Hampshire taxpayers nothing. Students would have been able to become debt free after five years of living and working for a New Hampshire employer. All in all, it would have been the largest ever workforce incentive program of student loan assistance in state history. That is something I am very proud of. While the Legislature ultimately elected not to include my plan in the final budget, we agreed to continue discussions and pursue a compromise that would be a win for all stakeholders. With Senate Bill 529 and the proposed amendment, I believe we have achieved that goal.

It is for these reasons that I am pleased to lend my support for Senate Bill 529 and the proposed amendment thereto, sponsored by Senator D'Allesandro. This bill and the amendment reflect many of the goals put forward in my budget, while also ensuring that we are moving forward aggressively with student scholarships and maintaining some support for endowments. Overall, the bill and the amendment represent a good compromise that comes as a result of productive, bipartisan discussions.

This is a proposal that will deliver for students in our state. I hope that the Committee supports the bill and the amendment, and that the Legislature will get this proposal to my desk soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Christopher T. Sununu".

Christopher T. Sununu  
Governor