



Business and Industry Association
New Hampshire's Statewide Chamber of Commerce

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June 9, 2015

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
Governor
State of New Hampshire
State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Governor Hassan:

I am writing to express the opposition of the BIA to HB 603 and to urge you to veto this legislation.

HB 603 establishes an unnecessary and counterproductive process that allows students to opt out of education assessment testing (such as the current "Smarter Balanced" test). This will make New Hampshire's ability to attain federally established testing thresholds more difficult and could potentially result in the loss of hundreds of millions of dollars in federal education aid.

Assessments are important. They provide parents and teachers with information needed to help students be successful. They provide critical information about student achievement and help align academic instruction to the individual needs of each student. The results are an improved educational experience for the student and improved educational outcomes. Assessments are also an important tool for educators and communities to identify and reduce gaps in the achievement of student populations (i.e. low income, English as a second language) who are at risk of being underserved by our public education system.

There is no good reason for providing the opt out provisions established by HB 603. Aside from the very real fiscal ramifications of losing significant education aid to New Hampshire, HB 603 sends a message that our state doesn't value student achievement and educational excellence. This is not a message that is conducive for economic growth and will likely discourage companies providing 21st century jobs from considering New Hampshire as a state to grow an existing business or locate a new one.

For all these reasons we urge you to veto HB 603.

Best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jim Roche', with a large flourish extending to the left.

Jim Roche
President