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## THE DOVER SCHOOL DISTRICT

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November 7, 2017

Honorable Members of the House Education Committee:

On November 6, 2017, the Dover City Council and the Dover School Board met in a Joint Fiscal meeting to review and discuss SB 193. The City of Dover is strong proponent of adequate funding of New Hampshire's public schools and based on this position, voted unanimously to oppose SB 193.

The charge of a public school system is to develop highly educated citizens. The passing of this bill promotes the privatization of education and could lessen the philosophical purpose of public education. Public schools also are tasked with educating and annually assessing students. Unlike public schools, SB 193 does not hold potential educational providers to any form of standard or accountability.

The State of New Hampshire continues to struggle with the ability to provide the essential resources to adequately fund public education, yet the passage and funding of SB 193 makes funding a voucher system a higher priority than adequately funding public schools. Any legislation proposing to reduce the state funding to our public school jeopardizes the system and places a higher burden on municipalities.

It is estimated that the Dover School District could lose between \$142,824 to \$714,122. The loss of funding will result in the elimination of positions in the schools, reduction in programs and services, and an increase in the ever-growing tax rate.

Providing a quality public education for all children of the State of New Hampshire is crucial to the success of our state. We respectfully request SB 193 not proceed out of committee.

Respectfully,

Amanda Russell  
Dover School Board Chairperson

Karen Weston  
City of Dover Mayor