



# GOLD STANDARD

SB 488 NAY OTP/A  
SB 523 NAY OTP/A  
SB 500 NAY OTP  
SB 531 YEA ITL  
SB 533 YEA ITL  
SB 543 NAY OTP/A  
SB 358 YEA OTP/A  
HB 359 YEA ITL



SENATE SESSION - THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 2016

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## SB 488-FN-L, requiring reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers. **SB 488**

Commerce Committee Recommendation: OTP/A 5-0

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill creates new mandates on businesses**

- Many businesses do not have and cannot afford to create “private, non bathroom spaces” for employees, or afford many of the other costly mandates contained in this bill.
- Use of vague exceptions that place the burden of proof on the business is a recipe for lawsuits.
- Job benefits should be negotiated between an employee and an employer, not mandated by legislators. If a business does not offer attractive benefits, employees may seek work elsewhere.
- The costly mandates contained in this bill will further deter businesses from hiring young women of child bearing age, particularly for entry level or early career work.
- NH licensing and regulatory requirements are already far too arduous. In order to improve the NH economy, and encourage innovation and entrepreneurship, legislators should be working to lessen regulatory burdens, not worsen them.

**NAY  
OTP/A**

## SB 523-FN, relative to the controlled drug prescription health and safety program. **SB 523**

Commerce Committee Recommendation: OTP/A 3-2

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill puts the government between doctors and patients.**

- Patients facing chronic pain already have enough trouble receiving effective treatment. This new mandate removes discretion from trained medical professionals and forces them to treat chronic pain patients as if they are drug seeking addicts.
- Legislators should be seeking to reduce the already costly and extensive interferences by government into medical care, not expand them.
- The provisions that allow for 'random' drug testing are too broad and could be interpreted as allowing the doctor to demand a drug test at any time. This would further disrupt the life and livelihood of a patient.

**NAY  
OTP/A**

## SB 500-FN, relative to student health insurance plans. **SB 500**

Education Committee Recommendation: OTP 6-0

**ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill mandates new procedures for educational entities that operate self-funded student health insurance plans.**

- This bill is attempting to address a problem that does not exist. There are sufficient consumer protections already in place for students covered under these plans.
- The state should not insert itself where it is not needed. A free market in health insurance better serves customers than ever-expanding state mandates and regulations.
- College costs and health care costs continue to rise faster than inflation year over year. Overregulation, which this bill exemplifies, is a big part of the problem.

**NAY  
OTP**

## SB 531-FN, extending the New Hampshire health protection act.

# SB 531

Health and Human Services Committee Recommendation: ITL 2-2

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill extends and expands a massive new entitlement program.**

- This bill eliminates the existing sunset provision for Medicaid Expansion.
- Medicaid Expansion is a welfare program for able-bodied adults in their working years. The medical insurance provided has features such as no premiums, no deductibles and non-emergency transportation benefits that are simply not available to workers with full-time jobs. These benefits create a strong disincentive to full-time employment and career advancement.
- Federal money always comes with strings attached, and it is not free. The national debt is approaching \$20 trillion.
- The Federal government will not keep its promises. As federal money dries up, costs will fall squarely on the State's General Fund, which will only be able to support it through a new broad based tax, such as a sales or income tax, thereby destroying what remains of the New Hampshire Advantage.
- A free market approach to health care should be the main priority of the legislature. This is the only way to sustainably lower costs and increase access for the majority of Granite Staters

## YEA ITL

## SB 533-FN-A-L, relative to drug law enforcement and penalties, insurance coverage for substance use disorders, a statewide drug court grant program, and drug abuse prevention; and making appropriations therefor.

# SB 533

Health and Human Services Committee Recommendation: ITL 2-2

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill expands the current failed approach to the war on drugs and perpetuates failed policies already signed into law.**

- The Governor's Commission on Alcohol and Drug Abuse Prevention, Treatment, and Recovery has been in operation since 2000, while NH watches the heroin epidemic grow and expand, taking the life of one Granite Stater every day last year. The State would be wise to wait to see results from recently implemented programs before throwing yet more taxpayer dollars at the issue.
- Wires are crossed in this legislation, which aims to both convict addicts and provide treatment to addicts. It is doubtful that this legislation, if passed, would accomplish anything of measure or value.

## YEA ITL

## SB 543-FN, relative to private transferring of adopted children.

# SB 543

Judiciary Committee Recommendation: OTP/A 4-1

### **ANTI-LIBERTY: This bill requires parents to utilize adoption procedures of existing law for transferring children for adoption.**

- The language of the bill is unclear and could result in parents being prosecuted for giving physical custody to a grandparent. It is not uncommon for parents to encounter circumstances that require physical transfer of custody for indeterminate time periods, which could easily be viewed as intent for permanent transfer.
- A parent who becomes ill with a terminal disease and who transfers physical custody to a grandparent should not be at risk of prosecution after 6 months.
- Asserting that a parent who is utilizing non-traditional means to arrange long term or indeterminate term childcare is guilty of endangering the welfare of the child is inappropriate without taking into account the circumstances of the transfer.
- The complexity and significant expense of the processes outlined in Chapter 170-B represent a real deterrent to completely valid adoptions. Legislators should seek to lessen the difficulty and expense of adoption, rather than universally mandate bureaucracy.

## NAY OTP/A

## SB 358, relative to use of navigation devices in motor vehicles.

# SB 358

Transportation Committee Recommendation: OTP/A 3-0

**PRO-LIBERTY:** This bill recognizes the right of drivers to use navigation systems.

- This is a good common sense first step in fixing the hands free law.
- There are many distractions while driving and we can't legislate all of them. Using a mounted or built in gps is no more dangerous than changing radio stations.
- The hands free law went too far in restricting what drivers can do in their own vehicles. This bill helps give drivers the freedom to use their property as it was intended without the fear of being pulled over and ticketed.

**YEA  
OTP/A**

## HB 359, allowing all municipalities to adopt the property tax exemption to foster commercial and industrial construction.

# HB 359

Ways and Means Committee Recommendation: ITL 4-1

**ANTI-LIBERTY:** This bill allows municipalities to play favorites, forcing some property owners to subsidize others.

- This bill encourages cronyism. All companies in all industries should have lower tax rates to encourage growth and long lasting job creation in NH.
- Favoring certain industries or businesses with lower tax rates discourages businesses of other industries from coming to NH.
- The legislature, to encourage economic growth, should focus on reducing the arduous regulatory and tax burden on NH businesses.

**YEA  
ITL**