



City of Franklin, NH
316 Central Street
Franklin NH 03235



Town of Northfield, NH
21 Summer Street
Northfield NH 03276

Jason Tardiff, Selectboard Chair
Town of Allenstown
16 School Street
Allenstown NH 03275

October 21, 2016

Dear Mr. Tardiff;

We are reaching out to you and the Town of Allenstown to ask for your assistance in resolving a school funding problem that we share. Taxpayers in Allenstown, like those in Franklin, Northfield and dozens of other New Hampshire communities are scheduled to see increases in our property taxes due to the gradual elimination of education stabilization grants.

Stabilization grants have been allocated to communities with the lowest capacity to raise property taxes since 2012 when the program was created to replace the Fiscal Capacity Disparity Aid program. These funds are a vital component of the State's obligation under the *Claremont* decision to protect the right of all New Hampshire children to an adequate education irrespective of their town's ability to raise property tax revenue.

In 2015 the legislature enacted HB1 & 2, which included a phasing out of stabilization grants at a rate of 4% per year starting in FY2017. This was incorporated into law as RSA198:41 IV (d).

You are receiving this letter because your community, like our communities, is scheduled to lose in excess of one million dollars in stabilization grant funds by the time the program is completely eliminated. If your community is like ours, this represents a debilitating increase in the burden being placed upon our local property tax payers.

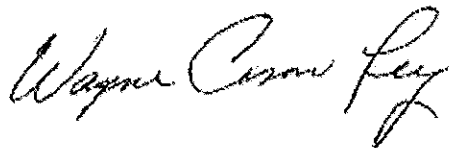
We feel that by working together the communities most impacted can correct this situation. We would like to invite you to attend a forum scheduled for **6:00 – 7:30pm on Monday November 14, 2016 at the Franklin Opera House, 316 Central Street Franklin**. At the forum we will explore possible legislative and/or legal solutions needed to protect the fiscal integrity of our schools and communities.

Please let us know if you are interested in joining us in these efforts by contacting Lauraine Paquin in the Franklin City Manager's Office at 934-3900 or Lpaquin@franklinnh.org if we hear from you we will keep you informed of any and all actions taken to correct this situation.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Merrifield". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "K" and "M".

Ken Merrifield, Mayor, City of Franklin

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Crowley". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "C".

Wayne Crowley, Chair
Northfield Board of Selectmen