



January 28, 2026

To: House Ways and Means Committee

From: New Hampshire College & University Council (NHCUC)

Re: HB 1293

HB 1293 would amend RSA 72:23, V to tax the value of charitable or nonprofit-owned property exceeding \$1,000,000. This change would significantly harm New Hampshire's colleges and universities and, in turn, the state's economy and workforce.

New Hampshire's higher education institutions are major economic engines and anchor institutions in their communities. Collectively, our 19 member public and private colleges and universities:

- Generate **\$7.6 billion in annual economic impact**
- **Support more than 50,000 jobs** statewide
- **Enroll over 66,000 students**, many of whom stay and work in New Hampshire after graduation

Taxing core educational property would divert resources away from instruction, student support, workforce-aligned programs, and financial aid—placing upward pressure on tuition and fees while reducing institutional capacity to meet the state's talent and workforce needs. This bill would also introduce uncertainty into long-term planning and capital investment. Facilities such as classrooms, laboratories, residence halls, and student support centers are not revenue-generating luxuries; they are essential to educating the workforce New Hampshire depends on.

Higher education is not a cost center—it is an economic and workforce development strategy. Weakening colleges and universities through new property taxation ultimately weakens New Hampshire's communities, employers, and future workforce.

For these reasons, NHCUC urges the committee to find HB 1293 **Inexpedient to Legislate**.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mica Stark". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mica Stark

President and CEO