



**Frank Edelblut**  
Commissioner

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February 28, 2018

Representative Umberger  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
Chair, House Finance Division II

Dear Representative Umberger,

I wanted to thank you and your colleagues in the House for the extensive work you have done on SB 193-FN as reflected in your amendment 2018-0840h dated February 23, 2018. The work you have done will go a long way to creating educational opportunities for all children to succeed.

As the dust settles on this amendment, I want to encourage you to consider a couple of policy areas.

- My hope is that we could find a way to allow students entering first grade to participate in the program. (page 1, line 17)
- While I understand the objective to limit the number of participating students, it may be beneficial to families to exempt siblings from the limitations. Thus, for example, if a school reached its participation limit, a family would be permitted to enroll siblings of a scholarship student without limitation. (page 7, line 37)
- This is a program that will help students on the margin and who otherwise are not having success in a traditional education setting. Qualifying criteria mean that individual families will be making substantial financial sacrifices simply to participate. Allowing these families to "stack" this program with the state education savings program (RSA 77-G) may mean the difference of being able to participate or not. (page 6, line 13)

Thank you for considering these policy areas and please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Frank Edelblut".

Frank Edelblut  
Commissioner of Education