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## **Jeff McLynch, NHFPI Executive Director, Testifies against Tax Credit for Private Education**

CONCORD - A proposed tax credit to subsidize students attending private, religious, or home schools would drain critical resources from public schools and other vital services, according to those who testified against House Bill 1607 today.

The House Committee on Ways and Means held a public hearing on the bill, which would create a tax credit for businesses that contribute to private scholarship organizations. The money would be used for subsidies to students attending private, religious, or home schools. A hearing on similar legislation, Senate Bill 372, is scheduled for the Senate Education Committee tomorrow at 1 p.m.

"House Bill 1607 and Senate Bill 372 would be costly for state officials to implement and would divert business tax revenue from public services to private interests. In particular, state aid to public schools would likely suffer, even though there is little evidence that students receiving subsidies to attend private school do better academically than their public school peers," said Jeff McLynch, executive director of the New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute.

In particular, McLynch cited the findings of a July 2011 report by the Center on Education Policy, which reviewed numerous studies on the impact of publicly-funded voucher programs on student achievement and found "no clear advantage in academic achievement for students attending private schools with vouchers."

"In light of this research, a major diversion of public funds to private schools is, at best, difficult to justify," he said.

Data from the American Community Survey indicate that the typical income for a family with a child in private school was \$97,200 in 2010, 25 percent higher than the income for a family with children solely in public schools. Yet, as McLynch observed, both pieces of legislation would ultimately permit all tuition subsidies to go to students who may never have attended public school in New Hampshire.

McLynch's full testimony is available on the NHFPI website at [www.nhfpi.org](http://www.nhfpi.org).