

## **Libertarians Encouraged By Claremont Solutions Offered By The Republicans and Democrats**

The Libertarian Party of New Hampshire has reason to welcome the responses Republicans and Democrats have offered to the Claremont decision. LPNH Chair Danielle Donovan declared today "The proposals by the two old parties prove how desperately New Hampshire needs the Libertarian Party."

"While the Republicans wrangle over a constitutional amendment that only institutionalizes the present sorry state of New Hampshire education, the Democrats rally behind Governor Shaheen's big-government 'ABC' plan."

Donovan went on to explain, "The Republicans are missing a chance to improve education dramatically for all the children in the state by supporting an amendment that leaves the system as it currently stands. Governor Shaheen's 'ABC' plan is 'A Bad Concept' that will create 'Added Bureaucratic Control.'"

Brian Christeson, chair of the party's Education Committee, argued that amending the state's constitution is not a step to be taken lightly. "Any amendment should be one that reaffirms and strengthens the beliefs of the original framers in limited government."

"Given the mess that government has made of education, we believe that the children of New Hampshire would be better served by an amendment that gets government out of education entirely."

The party claims that such an amendment would offer something for everyone:

"It shall be the policy of the State of New Hampshire to foster and encourage education at all levels, and, recognizing that state intervention into education can never help as much as it harms, it shall further be the practice of the State never to mandate, assist, discourage, or prohibit any form of education sought by adults, or by children and their parents. Actions that the State hereby abjures include but are not limited to: dictating school curricula, defining standards, certifying schools and teachers, collecting and disbursing funds, and compelling school attendance."

Both Donovan and Christeson expressed a belief that such an amendment should attract the support of all who want the schools their children attend to reflect their own beliefs about education.

"Those who favor experimental approaches to education could choose schools that offer innovative programs, while other parents send their children to schools that promise a disciplined 'back to basics' approach. Religious people of every kind could select schools that include prayer and scripture study in everyday teaching, and non-believers could pick schools that cater to secular concerns. Liberals and conservatives could stop haggling over curriculum in monopolistic schools, and both could support schools that reflect their deepest values."

Christeson concluded, "Only by returning to parents the right to control their children's schooling can New Hampshire truly -- in the language of the state constitution -- 'cherish' education."

# # #

PRESS RELEASE of December 22, 1997

Contact: Brian Christeson, LPNH Education Committee Chair

Phone: (603) 744-6766

E-Mail: [brianc@extern.com](mailto:brianc@extern.com)