



# State of New Hampshire

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

CONCORD

Caucus Members,

March 2, 2022

I am awed by our resilience. In the face of a pandemic that has changed the way we interact, and a barrage of bills from across the aisle that threaten our hopes for New Hampshire, this caucus has remained strong, fighting every day for our constituents and their needs.

In August 2020, I was diagnosed with stage four prostate cancer. That November, in full knowledge of this diagnosis, you nevertheless saw fit to give me the honor of electing me Democratic Caucus leader. Throughout setbacks with my health this term - including treatment complications and a bout with COVID - your support has inspired me to remain resilient.

With great reluctance, I am following the advice of my doctors and will be taking a medical leave of absence from the position of Democratic Leader. I have fought my entire life for the people of New Hampshire and served in the legislature for more than 30 years - but for now, I need to focus on another fight. During my leave of absence, Deputy Leader David Cote will assume the duties of Democratic Leader, and Representative Mary Jane Wallner will step in as the Deputy Democratic Leader.

Together, David and Mary Jane bring more than 80 years of legislative experience and Caucus leadership. They know what it takes to get the job done for you, so you can get the job done for your constituents. With David, Mary Jane, and the rest of the leadership team, I feel confident that our caucus will remain united in the fight for the values and ideals we hold so dear.

I also want to thank the other members of the leadership team who will continue to serve our caucus fearlessly. The many successes we have had this term were only made possible by their dedication day in and day out. Thank you to Rep. Karen Ebel for your leadership in tirelessly advocating for safe COVID meeting precautions against all pandemic odds. Thank you, Rep. Marjorie Smith, for your help coordinating with committee Ranking Members and facilitating policy meetings. Thank you, Rep. Manny Espitia, for your formidable work leading us to many victories on the floor so far this year. Thank you to Rep. Lucy Weber for your persistent commitment in stewarding our caucus through parliamentary procedure and standing up for what is right time and time again at the microphone. Thank you to Rep. Matt Wilhelm for your unrelenting commitment to bringing Democrats back into the Majority. Thank you, Former Speaker Steve Shurtleff, for your advice, guidance, and caucus support. Thank you to Paul Twomey, for not only being our legal counsel, but also for your friendship and brotherhood to me throughout the years.

And most of all, many thanks to our incredible staff - Dan, Rachel, Slate, and our former colleague Zack - for their loyalty to me and to all members of this Caucus. You have dedicated hours upon hours of diligent effort in these most difficult of circumstances. You are as good a

staff as I have ever seen, and wonderful, caring human beings. Words cannot fully express my gratitude.

And finally, thank you to every member of the Democratic caucus. Each one of you has shown tremendous leadership through how you have encouraged each other in the fight for Democratic values during one of the hardest legislative terms to date. We bring power in our diversity - each one of you matters and must continue to bring your unique perspective and talents to fight the good fight for your constituents. We bring power in our unity - together under the Democratic leadership, we must remain steadfast in our shared values and work together to get the job done for the good of our constituents, for the good of our state, and for the good of our future.

I continue to be humbled by your friendship and find strength in your well-wishes and messages of support. Thank you for your understanding of this incredibly difficult decision, and for your commitment to getting into some good trouble for the people of my dear Granite State.

In Solidarity,



Renny Cushing

House Democratic Leader