

# NEW HAMPSHIRE UNION LEADER

## **Give Croydon a choice: Hassan should sign education bill**

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Every once in a while, the New Hampshire General Court listens to a good idea.

Last November, as Attorney General Joe Foster was going to court to block the Croydon School District from sending a handful of students to Newport Montessori, we called on the Legislature to defuse the legal battle by explicitly authorizing local school districts to enter into tuition agreements with local private schools.

Last week, the House and Senate approved [HB 1637](#), which does just that. The bill was approved largely along party lines, with Republicans voting to give parents and local school boards greater flexibility over local education decisions, and Democrats predictably opposing any expansion of school choice.

Today, Jason Bedrick expands on the power of choice in education. He also demolishes the specious argument that religious private schools are ineligible to receive the same taxpayer support as non-religious ones. Such limits in fact are discriminatory.

Gov. Maggie Hassan might be tempted to go along with her party, and veto this simple and effective bill. We urge her to sign it.

By signing HB 1637 into law, Hassan could give parents and school boards explicit authority to find the best school for each child.

By vetoing it, she would kick five young students out of their school, and put the state Department of Education in charge of local education decisions.