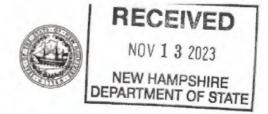
#### STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Honorarium or Expense Reimbursement Report (RSA 14-C) For Legislators and Legislative Employees



Type or Print all Information Cl		1 1			
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Name of Person Representing the	Corporation/Entit	ty: Kate	Nickson		_
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November I, 2023

Dear Senator Whitley.

The States Project is pleased to invite you to attend an in-person convening, set to occur from December 6-7, 2023. As a condition of your attendance, please review this letter, then sign and submit it by Friday, November 10, 2023.

The States Project is committed to the highest standards of ethical conduct. The States Project does not intend to affer an confer any gift or other item of value that is impermissible under the ethics and/or gift rules that govern you as a legislator in New Hampshire ("Local Rules"). Accordingly, to participate in this event, you (or your legal counsel or ethics officer) must sign beliaw to verify that you have read this letter and that your attendance at the event (including your acceptance of any travel, lodging, meals, entertainment, or other things of value incident to attending the event) compiles with the Local Rules.

This event consists of the following components. Please note that costs listed are approximate.

item	Description	\$450 \$500 \$175	
Travel	Round-trip travel to New York City; Ground transportation within New York City		
Lodging	One-night stoy in hotel in New York City		
Meals	Afternoon refreshments; breakfast; lunch		
Dinner Event		\$250	
Other	Gift bog	\$50	

If the Local Rules prohibit you from accepting any of item(s) listed above, but you or an entity that is approved to pay under the Local Rules would like to pay fair market value for the item(s) please contact Louren Ellis (<a href="https://local.org/local.org">local.org</a> and The States Project will provide you with exact cost of the item(s) for which you are paying fair market value.

Payment may be made via check to "Future Now Action" and mailed to: Future Now Action, c/o Mele Brengarth & Assoc., PO Box 15845, Washington, DC 20003.

Please sign and submit this document by **November 10, 2023**. If you have any questions, please contact Kate Nielson (<u>kate@statesproject.org</u>).

Sincerely,

Whitley\_Fellowship Gift Certification Letter.docx.pdf

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Kate Nielson

Name of Invitee	Rebecca Whitiey
Title	Senator from NH District 15
Signature	Reference Middless

## The States Project 2024 Policy Agenda

This agenda is based on The States Project policy library, a nonpartisan resource with model policies and research from around the country. Every policy in this agenda can pay for itself over time, will tangibly improve people's lives, and has broad public support. In fact, 91% of Americans support the seven core goal areas laid out in the agenda:

- Good Jobs
- 2. Quality, Affordable Healthcare
- 3. Investing in Children
- 4. Empowering People Over Special interests
- 5. Equal Opportunity for All
- 6. Sustainable Infrastructure, Resilience, and Innovation
- 7. Clean Air, Water, and Energy

Read on to determine what policies would most serve your constituents in this moment and how you can best improve the lives of all Americans.

#### Goal 1: Good Jobs

Americans are trying to make ends meet as inflation, corporate greed, and other factors drive up prices. Federal actions won't solve this problem. State lawmakers can leverage their power to improve lives by ensuring that every job seeker can find a job that meets the needs of their families. Targets to achieve include:

- 100% of jobs pay a livable wage for all job seekers
- Paid family, vacation, and sick leave for 100% of jabs
- o Protect labor rights and increase worker representation
- Expand Apprenticeships to Grow Good Jobs: People can get the skills and credentials
  they need to enter the workforce in high-needs industries more quickly and while
  earning a paycheck through paid apprenticeships as they work toward their full
  certifications.
- Expand the Path to Good Jobs with Better Career and Technical Education: States
  can help prepare students for in-demand careers that require more than a high
  school education but not getting a college degree by improving high school career
  and technical education (CTE). Quality CTE courses starting in high school pay

- dividends by helping more students graduate high school, get good jobs, and earn higher salaries.
- 3. Strengthen the Workforce with Paid Sick and Family Leave: <u>Paid sick leave</u> gives workers the chance to seek medical care and take time off when sick. Meanwhile, <u>paid family leave</u> provides workers with paid time off to care for a new baby or a seriously ill relative. Together, these policies help businesses by lowering turnover, reduce the severity and spread of illness by ensuring workers can take the time they need to go to the doctor, and improve outcomes for all families.
- 4. Build Out a State Service Corps to Reduce Student Loan Debt and Increase Civic Participation: Student loan debt continues to crush millions of Americans, and has grown to become a \$1.5 trillion dollar crisis. By providing college loan repayment or tuition assistance to those who help fill critical needs in their state, a State Service Corps can provide major relief for young people who would otherwise struggle to pay back their loans. Service programs across the country provide young people with job training and tuition assistance, while engaging them in local service projects. With a State Service Corps, states can invest in young people and set them up for success, while better addressing statewide needs.

## Goal 2: Quality, Affordable Healthcare

The last several years underscored how critical quality, affordable healthcare is. Yet corporations are keeping drug prices high, and too many families cannot afford the preventative care or medical treatment they need. State lawmakers can build a healthier America by ensuring everyone can afford quality healthcare. Targets to achieve include:

- Universal, Affordable Health Coverage With A Cap On Out-Of-Pocket Expenses
- Life Expectancy Of At Least 84 Years
- End hunger for 100% of households
- Ensure Coverage for First Responders: First responders like law enforcement officers,
  paramedics, and firefighters take on dangerous jobs to protect others. Because they
  put their lives on the line, they are more likely than the general population to
  experience harm to their mental health and to die by suicide. This policy saves lives
  by ensuring that worker's compensation covers relevant mental healthcare so that
  police officers, firefighters, and other responders can afford the mental healthcare
  they need.

- 2. Provide School Meals to Fight Kids' Hunger: Children who eat regular meals are healthier and less prone to chronic illness and other health issues, which helps them do better in school. Yet rising costs of food can make it hard for families to feed their kids regular nutritious meals –over 81% of public school teachers report that students come to school hungry at least once a week. This policy ensures all students can get two nutritious meals a day at school, keeping kids healthy and helping families make ends meet.
- 3. Make Enrolling in Healthcare Easier: All Americans should be able to go to the doctor when sick and to prevent sickness, but insurance is too costly for many, and navigating options to help families afford healthcare can be difficult. State lawmakers can help more people get healthcare by making it easier to enroll in affordable coverage.
- 4. Expand Access to Affordable Healthcare through a Medicaid Buy-in Plan: More than half of U.S. adults don't have access to affordable healthcare. And in 35% of U.S. counties, only one company offers any type of health insurance for the millions of Americans not covered by their employer. But there are existing, workable solutions to expand access to healthcare. Medicaid "buy-in" allows families and individuals not otherwise eligible for Medicaid the chance to "buy-in" to Medicaid as an insurance plan. It's a universal, affordable option for those who don't have one. And, in the third of counties that leave people with no choice at all, it can help bring down costs for everyone by breaking the health insurance providers' monopoly.
- 5. Reduce Prescription Drug Prices with an Affordability Board: The rising costs of lifesaving prescription medications, like those that treat diabetes or cancer, are a top concern for Americans. Some, even those who are insured, are forced to ration or forgo important medication, which can have deadly consequences. A drug affordability board can limit the cost of life saving drugs to help reduce overall healthcare costs.

### Goal 3: Investing in Children

When state lawmakers invest in children, everyone benefits. These policies lead to success in school, better health for kids and parents, and more money in the pockets of families. Targets to achieve include:

- 100% Campletion Of Quality K-12 Education
- Path To Higher Education, Including Technical Training, Without Debt For 100% Of Students

- o Early Childhood Education And Services For 100% Of Children
- Universal Home Visiting for New Families an Investment in Our Future: Support for
  pregnant moms and very young kids is one of the most cost-effective ecanomic
  investments we can make. Maternal, infant, and early childhood home visits save
  money for families and states by reducing health and education costs and creating
  other benefits. The Universal Home Visiting Act benefits families through individualized
  at-home attention from trained professionals.
- 2. Affordable Childcare and a Stable Childcare Workforce for All: Every family needs quality, affordable childcare, but the cost is too often out of control. At the same time, low pay for childcare workers has also led to an exodus from the industry, which leads to even fewer options for families who need childcare. State lawmakers can help parents work and take care of their family, incentivize people to enter the childcare field, and help kids do better in school by addressing this urgent need for working families.
- 3. Help Children Succeed with Pre-K For Every Child: Making high-quality pre-K education available to all young children helps families afford childcare and improves education outcomes and graduation rates for children. However, about half of America's 3- to 4-year-olds are not enrolled in pre-kindergarten. State lawmakers can leverage federal and other funding opportunities to help ensure that all young children can attend high-quality pre-kindergarten education.
- 4. Invest in Children with High-impact Tutoring for K-12 Students: State lawmakers can help students succeed in school after years of learning loss. Nearly 60% of fourth graders are not proficient in math while nearly two-thirds are not proficient in reading. High-impact tutoring is one of the most effective ways to quickly improve education outcomes.
- 5. Bolster Graduation Rates and Long-term Earnings By Helping Kids Learn to Read:
  Students' ability to read by third grade is one of the most important factors in determining their high school graduation outcomes, overall earning potential, and even their future contributions to a state's economy. Yet, two-thirds of students in America are not proficient in reading when they enter fourth grade, leading to lower high school graduation rates, worse health outcomes, and lower lifetime earnings. The Pre-K to Grade 3 Literacy Support Act helps states expand evidence-based literacy support for kids to help all students thrive in school and beyond.

#### Goal 4: Empowering People Over Special Interests

Narrow special interests are undermining America's ability to administer free and fair elections. Corporations and special interests are exerting undue influence in our democracy and leveraging Americans' most personal data for profit. The next few years will determine the role special interests play in America – and state lawmakers are on the frontlines. Targets to achieve include:

- Limit Corporate Special Interest Spending In Politics
- At Least 70% Voter Participation And Fair Legislative Districts
- o Personal Control For Everyone Over Their Private Online Data
- Automatic Voter Registration Makes Voting Easy and Secure: Voter registration in
  the United States is very low in comparison to other advanced democracies—and
  over a quarter of unregistered eligible voters say they want to be registered to vote.
  By modernizing the computer process for registration, automatic voter registration for
  American citizens significantly cuts costs and secures voting systems against fraud.
- Support Fair Districts With An Independent Redistricting Commission: When
  legislative districts are decided by partisan politicians, not all votes are treated
  equally. An independent redistricting commission prioritizes voters over politicians
  and is more likely to produce fair district maps that empower voters and strengthen
  our democracy.
- 3. Rein In Secret Corporate Influence In Politics: Corporate special interests exert enormous, largely unchecked influence in American elections, particularly since the Supreme Court's Citizens United decision. Individual states can take steps to rein in out-of-control corporate political spending, starting in the corporate boardroom. By requiring shareholder approval, public disclosure, and a business rationale for corporate political expenditures, state lawmakers can create increased transparency and accountability.
- 4. End Harassment of Local Election Workers Act: Election officials, administrators, and the poll workers who give their time to administer our elections are essential to protecting our democracy. But while administering elections shouldn't be dangerous, 1 in 3 election officials say they feel unsafe because of their job, and nearly 1 in 5 listed threats to their lives as a job-related concern. As many as 850 threats have been officially documented since 2020 and that number is only expected to increase. This policy makes it unlawful to interfere with elections by threatening election workers ensuring that our democracy, our elections, and those who administer them, are protected.

5. Protect People's Most Personal Data From Secret Surveillance: Consumers deserve privacy and should know if their information is being collected and shared, yet private corparations have a long history of collecting even people's most personal data. Companies often share data like fingerprints, faceprints, retinal or iris scans, voiceprint analysis, and DNA with third parties without consumers' knowledge. In fact, biometric data is estimated to be a \$45 billion a year industry by 2024. This policy would ensure corporations cannot collect or distribute biometric data without express consent from the consumer.

### Goal 5: Equal Opportunity for All

Equal opportunity is a core American value. Without it, everyone's health, pocketbooks, and freedom suffer. Particularly at a time when families are already struggling to make ends meet, state lawmakers can ensure all Americans have the opportunity to achieve a healthy, prosperous, and sustainable future. Targets to achieve include:

- Equal Pay For Equal Work Regardless Of Gender Or Race
- Public Safety and Equal Treatment in the Justice System for All
- o End discrimination in jobs, housing, healthcare, and education
- 1. Defending Families Against Unnecessary Foreclosure: Foreclosures are on the rise, but homeowners at risk may have options to stay in their home. However, many are unaware of those options due to abusive lending and foreclosure practices. A Homeowner's Bill of Rights will protect homeowners facing foreclosure by ensuring they are provided information about and connections for all available legal paths to keeping their home.
- 2. Boost First-Time Home Buyers With Affordable Loans: For too many, homeownership presents a double bind: it's an aspiration that can create added stability and civic engagement, but borrowing too much can crush aspirations and destabilize an entire life. Several states are helping first-time home buyers with cost-effective revolving loan funds that provide what's needed to make life-changing first home purchases. The First-Time Home Buyers Act helps more families afford a first home without significant cost to the state or encouraging home-buyers to take on more debt than they can handle.
- Protect Families from Homelessness by Ending Discrimination Based on "Source of Income": Unstable housing can have lifelong consequences. Stable housing has monumental impacts on a child's long-term educational success and health. State

- and federal programs already exist to help families afford decent housing, but some landlords refuse to rent to those families, driving them into shelters and other programs that have high costs for the state, and kids' futures. The End Income Discrimination in Housing Act protects families from this discrimination.
- 4. Equal Pay for Equal Work with Pay Transparency: Everyone deserves equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender or race. Research shows that encouraging pay transparency and allowing workers to talk about it both advances equal pay and also improves workplaces. This policy will ensure that discussing salary information is protected for all workers.
- 5. Secure a Prosperous Future for All by Strengthening Nondiscrimination Protections: No one should be fired, evicted, or denied service because of who they are. Yet the social, economic, and health effects of discrimination against LGBTQ+ people costs states tens of millions of dollars each year. State lawmakers can create a fairer and more prosperous state by prohibiting discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity for jobs, housing, public accommodations, schools, and more.
- 6. Increasing Job Opportunities with the Clean State Act: Low-level, non-violent convictions can stay with individuals for their entire life, impacting jobs, education, and housing for them and their families. Sealing some nonviolent criminal records for people who have served their sentences and remained crime-free provides a path toward better jobs and more stability, and reduces crime.

# Goal 6: Sustainable Infrastructure, Resilience, and Innovation

Natural disasters and eroding infrastructure endanger Americans and lead to emergencies that families can't afford. Sustainable infrastructure, on the other hand, builds resilience in the face of extreme weather or other disasters. With unprecedented new funding and incentives available from the federal government, state lawmakers can ensure their constituents stay safe and are able to rebuild quickly when necessary. Targets to achieve include:

- o 100% Of Roads, Bridges, Railways, Airports, Seaports, Levees, And Dams In Good Repair
- Plans To Make Every Community Resilient Against Natural Disasters
- Enhance Scientific Research And Technological Capabilities

- Save Lives by Stopping Extreme Weather Utility Shutoffs: When extreme weather
  strikes, a utility company denying power over a billing dispute can risk the lives of
  seniors, children, and anyone with a medical condition. By preventing utilities from
  denying service during episodes of extreme weather, state lawmakers can ensure no
  one's life is endangered because they can't afford a utility bill.
- 2. Hold Big Polluters Accountable with State Superfund Laws: Too often, big polluters do not pay for the cost of the pollution they dump into communities. Pollutants in groundwater and soil create major health hazards and make polluted land unavailable for development. Creating and strengthening state Superfund laws gives states and localities the tools they need to support environmental cleanup, thereby creating jobs and protecting their communities.
- 3. Protect Communities Faced with Disaster with a State Resilience Officer: As floods, hurricanes, and other natural disasters increase in number and severity, states must take action to reduce natural disaster risk for all communities. Families who lose their home or cannot go to work all suffer when a natural disaster hits. A state resilience officer can ensure states are better prepared to respond to disasters, and that, when disasters occur, recovery efforts are quick, effective, and efficient.
- 4. Ensure Clean Water and Resilient Communities Through Cover Crops: Pollution in rivers, streams, and lakes costs Americans billions of dollars and threatens the resiliency of our communities. However, pollution in local waterways can be drastically reduced by farmers planting cover crops in the off-season. This increases climate change resilience and reduces severe damage from natural disasters while also improving farmers' bottom lines. This policy incentivizes planting cover crops by offering farmers a per acre refund on their crop insurance premium for planting cover crops, helping to improve water quality and soil health, and reduce contamination in local rivers, streams and lakes.
- 5. Increase Housing Supply and Create Good Jobs: As housing costs continue to rise, more families are struggling to pay rent or buy a home. Laws in many states make it more difficult to build new housing. State lawmakers can enact a policy to increase the housing supply and create jobs by removing red tape that makes it difficult to create housing families can afford.
- 6. State Federal Funding Coordination Officer: The federal government has, in recent years, provided significant funding to help states address the needs of Americans like better jobs, cleaner water, and more resilient infrastructure. A policy to create a high-level state federal funding coordination officer will help identify and secure new funds to ensure that they are spent in a way that maximizes impact.

#### Goal 7: Clean Air, Water, and Energy

The health and financial costs of pollution are high. State lawmakers can play a pivotal role in moving towards clean energy and reducing pollution. These policies can help more Americans stay healthy while creating good jobs in communities that most need them. Targets to achieve include:

- Accelerate Increased Investment in Clean, Safe Energy
- Clean Air And Water For Every Community
- Big Polluters Pay 100% Of Damages From Pollution
- Clean Water in Every Tap: Millions of people across thousands of communities in the
  U.S. have chemicals in their drinking water that put them at risk. These chemicals are
  linked to cancer and other health problems. State lawmakers can limit the amount of
  these known toxins in drinking water, protecting families, homes, schools, and
  businesses from harmful toxins and reducing healthcare costs.
- 2. Protect Children from Lead in Schools and Daycares: Lead in drinking water has been linked to numerous health problems such as decreased bone and muscle growth, damage to the nervous system, and developmental delays. Lead exposure is particularly devastating to young children, yet schools and preschools in most states do not test for lead in drinking water. This policy protects children from the dangers of lead by providing for drinking water lead testing at schools and daycares.
- 3. Increasing Utility Energy Efficiency Creates Jobs and Saves Consumers Money: Utility companies have substantial power to set rates and determine energy choices for consumers, making them essential to state lawmakers' efforts to reduce pollution and promote clean energy choices. State lawmakers can take action to reduce costs through strong utility energy efficiency policies, which task utilities with increasing efficiency and preventing energy waste leading to billions in savings and growth in the clean energy sector.
- 4. Create Jobs, Make Communities Healthier, and Protect the Future With A Climate Action Plan: The costs of climate change continue to increase, with each extreme weather event and the billions in damage. But state lawmakers can protect their state from extreme weather while boosting their state's economy. A Climate Action Plan supercharges the economy by creating jobs, improving public health, and reducing energy costs.
- Create Jobs with a State Clean Energy Bank: State lawmakers seeking to create jobs, lower energy costs for consumers, and increase investments in clean energy can consider a state clean energy bank. Clean energy banks incentivize energy projects

- that save consumers, communities, and states money. These banks also create jobs with competitive pay and help workers get the qualifications they need by supporting apprenticeship programs.
- 6. Save Lives and Money Through Energy Storage Targets: America's aging power grid paired with extreme weather has led to power losses and even death. And, power outages cost the US economy \$150 billion annually. This policy lowers energy costs for Americans and creates a more efficient and resilient electric system by leveraging energy storage.
- 7. Lower Costs Through Clean Energy Transportation: Families are seeking to save money on gas and energy. State lawmakers can leverage federal funding for initiatives that support electric vehicles, including school buses, charging stations, and other clean-energy transportation options. By funding initiatives like the electrification of public transportation and helping families to afford electric vehicles, this policy lowers costs while creating jobs that pay a competitive wage.