

To the Vermont Senate Committee on Finance

Having watched your discussion of **S.68** last week, I can understand your concern about the costs related to the bill.

At this point there is no way to accurately estimate the financial positives of S.68, but we can extrapolate a few.

For example

- Giving our nursing school graduates a tax write-off for their tuition will encourage them to remain in Vermont, freeing us of the need to pay exorbitant wages to traveling nurses.

- Educators will be more likely to stay here or move here.

- Let's stop paying people to move to Vermont, and instead encourage our youth to stay here by helping them write off their tuition expenses.

- Helping students with their school loans will also encourage young people to move here and help end our population loss issues.

- S.68 will increase enrollment in our colleges, universities, and trade schools.

- The number of people in the trades will expand, and they will be more competent and better-trained.

- A more educated population will have higher-paying jobs, which will generate more taxes.

-And, the psychological benefit of freeing young people from a cloud of debt, and instead showing them that we, as a state, support them in their efforts to make better lives for themselves, will be monumental. I spoke about this recently with a psychiatrist friend, who thought that the alleviation of student debt would reduce financial anxiety, and allow people to make more positive decisions about their lives.

I am certain that even more benefits will come to light and we will discover that S.68 will solve even more of the challenges we face as a state, and that it will actually prove to be an income generator.

Thank you for your consideration,
Bill Butler- Jericho