



State of New Hampshire
Governor's Office
FOR
EMERGENCY RELIEF AND RECOVERY
(GOFERR)
LEGISLATIVE ADVISORY BOARD

PUBLIC MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6, 2020

1:00 p.m.

in

One Eagle Square

Concord, NH 03301

Legislative Advisory Board Members:

SENATOR	Senator Lou D'Allesandro
SENATE PRESIDENT	Donna Soucy
SENATE LEADER	Senator Chuck Morse
SENATOR	John Reagan
SPEAKER	Steve Shurtleff
HOUSE LEADER	Rep. Dick Hinch
CHAIRWOMAN	Mary Jane Wallner
REPRESENTATIVE	Erin Hennessey

DISCUSSION

- Senator Morse & Senator D'Alessandro CARES Act Allocation Proposal
- Updated form with other federal funds column
- Joint Legislative Advisory Board and Stakeholder Advisory Board meet in Congress has Enacted Four Acts.

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 * * * * *

3 1:00 p.m.

4 JERRY LITTLE: The GOFERR Legislative
5 Advisory Board was created by Executive Order 2020-06.
6 That order is publicly available on the governor's
7 website.

8 Today's meeting is an official meeting of the
9 board, is open to the public, and will be run in a
10 manner compliant with RSA 91-A. We have someone taking
11 minutes right now which will be posted on the GOFERR
12 web page.

13 And as we've just mentioned, today's meeting is
14 also being recorded. The recording will also be
15 available on the GOFERR web page. Should you be a
16 speaking participant and not wish to be recorded, you
17 may disconnect now or at any time.

18 My name is Jerry Little. I am Director of the
19 Governor's Office for Emergency Relief and Recovery,
20 and I will be facilitating today's meeting.

21 Because the board is meeting by phone on the RSA
22 91-A, there are a few logistics that we need to

1 observe.

2 First, each of us must state our names, where we
3 are located, and who is with us in the room. We'll do
4 that by this roll call.

5 I am Jerry Little, Director of GOFERR, in the
6 GOFERR offices at One Eagle Square in Concord, and with
7 me are Rhonda Hensley and Wendy Gillman. Senate
8 President Donna Soucy.

9 DONNA SOUCY: This is Donna Soucy. I am at home
10 in Manchester, and I am alone.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. House Speaker Steve
12 Shurtleff.

13 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you, Commissioner. Steve
14 Shurtleff. I'm at my residence in Penacook, and I am
15 alone.

16 JERRY LITTLE: Senate Minority Leader Chuck Morse.

17 CHUCK MORSE: This is Chuck Morse. I'm at my
18 office in Atkinson, New Hampshire, and I am alone.

19 JERRY LITTLE: House Minority Leader Dick Hinch.

20 DICK HINCH: This is Dick Hinch. I am at my
21 office in Merrimack, and I am alone.

22 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Lou D'Allesandro.

1 LOU D'ALLENSANDRO: This is Lou D'Allesandro. I
2 am in Manchester at my home, and I am all alone.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Mary Jane Wallner.

4 MARY JANE WALLNER: This is Mary Jane Wallner.
5 I'm at my home in Concord, New Hampshire, and I am
6 alone.

7 JERRY LITTLE: Senator John Reagan.

8 JOHN REAGAN: John Reagan, I'm in my office alone.

9 JERRY LITTLE: And Representative Erin Hennessey.

10 ERIN HENNESSEY: Erin Hennessey, I'm in my house
11 in Littleton with my two minor children.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you all. As we move through
13 our agenda today, each board member and anyone else
14 speaking is asked to identify themselves before
15 speaking.

16 Should you choose to take any votes today, they
17 must be done by roll call following the process we just
18 used.

19 Finally, before we begin our discussions today,
20 please remember to use 5 Star if you would like to ask
21 a question. It raises your electronic hand on our
22 screen here in Concord. And I guess that's it for the

1 91-A required announcements.

2 You should have all received an updated
3 spreadsheet about mid-morning provided to us by Senator
4 Morse and I believe in concert with Senator
5 D'Allesandro. Senator Morse, would you like to discuss
6 the updated spreadsheet with quite a bit of detail
7 added to it?

8 Has everybody received the e-mail with the updated
9 spreadsheet titled "Legislative Advisory Committee
10 CARES Act Allocation Proposal, Version 2.0"? Better I
11 guess to ask the question if anybody has not received
12 it, can you hit 5 Star?

13 Seeing none, I'm assuming that everybody has
14 received a copy of the updated spreadsheet.

15 CHUCK MORSE: Okay. Well, that's a good start.
16 What I've done is the document that you have before you
17 now, I think there's only one number I changed from
18 Senator D'Allesandro's number, but I could be wrong.

19 It's been proofed several times, but the document
20 that's before you right now where you have issues to
21 the left-hand side and then -- I mean, on unemployment
22 we talked about two things. One, the trust fund, they

1 want a software upgrade.

2 So we basically put the major issues to the left,
3 the topics that we've talked about funding as a whole -
4 - I mean, they're not topics that are down to the
5 nitty-gritty -- right after that.

6 And then the governor has made some appropriations
7 already. We tried to capture all of those in a fashion
8 that was easy to follow.

9 When we get down to hospitals, we captured it all
10 under all healthcare instead of breaking out. I
11 believe out of that \$50 million, \$10.9 went to
12 hospitals. But we didn't break that out because it
13 became a little confusing in building the document.

14 But what you can do with this document, you can
15 actually go on the number, click on the number, and you
16 can see what that number basically represents.

17 Down the bottom is a bunch of categories that I
18 think will answer questions. Like if you want to know
19 on higher education how was the 41 million that was
20 received in higher education, how it was spent, if you
21 just scroll to the right on the bottom, you will see
22 education.

1 And you can click on it, and you'll see that, you
2 know, the university system got X, community colleges
3 got Y, and then private institutions got Z. You'll see
4 all that. You'll see what each individual group got.

5 So as we go through this document, I think we can
6 probably answer questions about federal money that came
7 in, money that's been allocated by the governor
8 already, and what I believe the committee wanted to end
9 up at.

10 I think education is probably the only place where
11 I changed a number. But I also tried to pick up from
12 all the documents that have been sent to us. If you
13 get into -- and this is where I think we need to do
14 some work -- but if you get into hospitals we'll say as
15 a category, you know, we certainly heard from dentists.

16 And we've heard from nursing homes and things like
17 that. So I think as the document gets built and we say
18 we're going to put money into a category we need to
19 start to define those categories, which is the text for
20 intended use, which is in -- I think it's like the
21 fifth or sixth column to the right.

22 But in any case, probably the best thing to do is

1 run the document one more time. But if someone's
2 already read it and has questions, I can answer those
3 first.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Questions for Senator Morse or
5 discussion of the documents he's presented.

6 CHUCK MORSE: Are there any questions?

7 JERRY LITTLE: Yes, I'm showing a question now
8 from Representative Mary Jane Wallner.

9 MARY JANE WALLNER: Thank you, Mr. Little. Are we
10 going -- we're going to walk through this document, I
11 assume, right --

12 CHUCK MORSE: Yes.

13 MARY JANE WALLNER: -- issue by issue? Okay. So
14 that's what we're going to do now.

15 CHUCK MORSE: That's what I would suggest. I
16 mean, it's up to you, but -- I mean, up to the group.
17 But I think --

18 MARY JANE WALLNER: Okay.

19 CHUCK MORSE: I think what was lacking in the
20 original document was answers to a whole bunch of
21 questions. And I'm not saying we got all the answers.
22 That's why I didn't break down that \$50 mill.

1 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

2 CHUCK MORSE: I know some of you have asked for
3 that for a while now. I didn't have a level of detail
4 to break it down, so I didn't feel comfortable.

5 But in any case, I think in most cases you can see
6 where the federal government paid attention to
7 something, where the governor paid attention to
8 something. There are some overlaps, and we can go
9 through the document.

10 The document that we went through the other day
11 with Senator D'Allesandro's comments on finance, I
12 tried to stick close to that. I might have changed one
13 or two numbers, but I did that based on seeing federal
14 funding (inaudible) to the state.

15 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think that you're right on
16 track, Chuck, that we should go through the document,
17 look at the changes that have been made and incorporate
18 our discussion at that point in time.

19 Now since we last spoke, the governor made a
20 couple of appropriations. One was to the cities and
21 towns and the other was that pay for frontline workers.
22 And those were two things that I didn't know about when

1 I made my presentation.

2 That happened after we closed business on Monday.
3 So I think this is a great way to start. The numbers
4 are good and we should proceed. Thank you.

5 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, that was one of the changes,
6 Lou. I think you had \$20 million in a category and he
7 put \$40 million in that category. I think that was one
8 of the changes to the document.

9 When you get down to the very bottom of the
10 document, just a suggestion, I've done this so that,
11 you know, basically we're at about 45% of the 1.25
12 today.

13 What I'm suggesting is we come back the end of
14 May, the end of June, and the end of July because I
15 think the problem the state's going to see -- and I'll
16 go right to the end of July because it's easier -- all
17 the tax payments will be into the communities by then.

18 You know, no one has any idea how good or bad
19 that's going to be. You know, and I know we can't fund
20 shortfalls, but it obviously can assist communities in
21 many different ways because that's what's happening
22 already in this document.

1 So that's why I think that our recommendation
2 should be we allocate some number, and we come back,
3 and we come back, and we come back and we come back.
4 That way we can -- I'm sure once this document gets out
5 today, we're going to hear from a lot of people.

6 And, you know, going into mid-May, we're going to
7 hear from even more people as, you know, things start
8 to develop in the state. So that's why I suggest we do
9 it that way.

10 But it was just to get a discussion going. So I
11 put that at the end of the document. And I certainly -
12 - at the end of the document put things that I think
13 are decisions.

14 You know, I know we talked about cabling. I've
15 actually had the industry call. You know, that's going
16 to be a decision that's going to be made, you know, and
17 probably could be made today. I don't know.

18 But the reality is with all the people that are
19 calling that are starting to get nervous about, you
20 know, just basic food and shelter, I'm not sure that is
21 a question that I personally want to answer today or
22 Friday or next week because it's a lot of money.

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And, you know, I'm not sure that there won't be another round of federal money where we could talk about this.

But, I mean, you know, that's really going to be up to the committee if we want to spend more up front and if we want to commit to doing things ahead of time. I don't have all the answers. I just tried to make it so we could talk about it.

So we start with unemployment. What came up from Senator Soucy on Monday was software upgrades. We spent -- well, I didn't spend, but Dick Hinch spent a good portion of the day going back and forth with Commissioner Copadis yesterday on researching a bunch of different issues.

But on the software upgrade, the federal government -- and Dick should speak to this -- I believe is going to come in and take care of that. But, Dick, why don't you speak to that one?

DICK HINCH: Yeah, so the software upgrades are going to be handled through the U.S. Department of Labor directly. And that came from Deputy Commissioner

1 Lavers yesterday afternoon.

2 So they currently do not have a need for any
3 allocation from us for software.

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, for software. So you got
5 the \$4.4 million number from Lavers, and Lavers said
6 that that was coming directly from the federal
7 government to upgrade the system.

8 DICK HINCH: Yeah, \$4.4 million is an allocation
9 from the federal government that has happened already.
10 And that actually has multiple uses to it, including
11 overtime, current expenses, hardware upgrades, et
12 cetera. So yes.

13 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, but to be clear, Senator
14 D'Allesandro, that \$4.4 million was not the software
15 number that he was talking about he was going to get
16 funding for, I don't believe. I believe this is money
17 that we already got, we already put to use or is
18 putting to use.

19 They didn't have enough hardware to handle what
20 got thrown out. So that's something that came up in
21 that conversation. So that's why we -- but we
22 specifically started talking about software, and we got

1 both ends of it, to be honest with you.

2 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

3 DICK HINCH: That's correct.

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

5 DONNA SOUCY: But we still do have some issues
6 within the department in terms of getting the answers
7 and the capacity for the number of people that are
8 filing and using the system.

9 We're still not where we need to be. So I guess I
10 would just want to hear a little more detail about
11 their plan to address that because there's no end in
12 sight to people continuing to process claims.

13 And as I said, still get calls on a daily basis of
14 people having difficulty even accessing them.

15 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, I mean, I don't have any
16 problem bringing them on. I mean, if Terry (phonetic)
17 can arrange that, we could talk to him. I was only
18 looking at the dollars and cents, Donna.

19 I wasn't on the -- you know, the other side of it.
20 I was just clearing a question like you asked.

21 DONNA SOUCY: Mm-hm.

22 CHUCK MORSE: We actually asked him for a number,

1 and that's how we ended up where we were.

2 DONNA SOUCY: No, I appreciate that. I just --
3 like I said, I think there's still more that they may
4 need that they have not asked for.

5 But I just want to make sure that we have
6 fortified that system to the extent that it needs to be
7 so that it's meeting the needs of people that I think
8 for a while are going to continue to need to collect
9 claims and to get answers, particularly people that are
10 self-employed. They seem to be having the greatest
11 struggle.

12 JERRY LITTLE: So this is Jerry. It sounds as
13 though you're asking if I would arrange to have Deputy
14 Commissioner Lavers on a call.

15 Alternatively, would you like me to ask him to
16 submit something in writing to the committee that we
17 could distribute to all of you relative to the efficacy
18 of the \$4.472 million expense or receipt from the
19 federal government Department of Labor and whether or
20 not that will solve all of their current (inaudible)?

21 DONNA SOUCY: Jerry, for myself --

22 JERRY LITTLE: I think that --

1 DONNA SOUCY: Yeah, I think having him submit
2 something in writing in advance and then just being
3 available if there are questions would be great.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Okay, we'll work on that.

5 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: There seems to be concurrence
6 about the \$50 million that was originally put forth.
7 Is that how you read that?

8 MARY JANE WALLNER: I have a question about that.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Wallner, go right
10 ahead.

11 MARY JANE WALLNER: I wondered how did we come up
12 with the \$50 million as a figure and whether or not the
13 Department of Labor has actually -- or Employment
14 Security I should say -- has actually done an estimate
15 of what number they would need in order to reimburse
16 the trust fund.

17 CHUCK MORSE: Well, Senator D'Allesandro came up
18 with that number. But I think quite honestly, the
19 document that we're building is basically saying this
20 is where we believe our priorities are.

21 That's why I got rid of ranking, because it was
22 pretty easy to see after the discussion the other day

1 that you were ranking things based on how you were
2 funding it.

3 The problem we're going to have in unemployment
4 that I had both of them on a call about two weeks ago.
5 But after 20 weeks we'll be borrowing money, so that
6 means that \$300 million that we had going into, you
7 know, March will be gone.

8 And we'll be borrowing from the federal
9 government. And like in 2008 when that happened, we
10 have to pay that back. So two things happened. We
11 were operating at about \$50 million a year in that
12 fund. And that's what we were taxing businesses on.

13 In the last go-around when we got into the
14 position that we borrowed, we had to go to businesses
15 for about 250 million. And I really shouldn't be
16 speaking for the department, but I think that was
17 pretty clear when I talked to them.

18 So they actually -- my question to them was based
19 on what a company's paying today, where would they be
20 if we borrow from the federal government and we have to
21 fill our own trust fund back while paying back money.

22 They said rates will be five times what they are

1 today. And that's how they got the \$250 million a year
2 that we'd be collecting out of businesses.

3 I think if we put 250 million in that line today,
4 I just -- it's probably too strong. You know, the same
5 thing would be we heard from, you know, restaurants and
6 lodging may need \$700 million.

7 We heard from hospitals they need \$200 million up
8 front. We're never going to get to these full numbers
9 that everyone asks for. Basically that's why I'm
10 recommending we only look at March and April.

11 The next line that we're going to look at went
12 through May 5. But the \$50 million was just to say we
13 know there's an issue there. I don't think we could
14 put 250 million in there unless the committee wants to.

15 MARY JANE WALLNER: I wasn't suggesting that,
16 Senator Morse. I just --

17 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: The \$50 million was a
18 reasonable number given what was going on. I spoke
19 with Copadis about the \$300 million, when the fund
20 would be depleted, and looked back at what we had done
21 in the past.

22 So that seemed a reasonable number to put in to

1 begin restoring the fund, and knowing full well that we
2 had to borrow from the feds and the 60/40 split. So
3 that seemed like a reasonable number at this time.

4 MARY JANE WALLNER: Thank you, Senator
5 D'Allesandro.

6 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Of course.

7 CHUCK MORSE: The next category was state
8 government. This is one where Senator D just mentioned
9 there was money. There's money I think two times now
10 been put into it where it says incurred costs.

11 That's been out of the 1.2 that we're making
12 recommendations out of. And that's the number so far
13 that we picked up out of that number. There's been
14 money from the federal government in this category.

15 Our documentation, like I said, went through May 5
16 on this. And along with that, if you get down, we
17 thought this was a more appropriate place to put front
18 line workers' pay under state government.

19 I think there's more than state government in this
20 category. But originally I believe it was \$25 million
21 was appropriated. And then in this last announcement
22 there was another \$25 million added to this category.

1 So that's the numbers we picked up in that category.

2 Under -- trying to look under Senator
3 D'Allesandro's document, but the only thing we picked
4 up on his document originally was what was spent, which
5 was that 100. And this number -- the \$126 million
6 which I've heard from several people -- if I go back to
7 our first meeting, the number that was in our notes was
8 \$154 million I believe.

9 So what I tried to do was get it as accurate as
10 possible and get away from that \$126 million because I
11 don't think you can tie directly to that number or the
12 \$150. So that's why you'd have to go into a bunch of
13 different numbers.

14 And that's why I made it so that you could click
15 on and see what was funded under that \$60 million. You
16 could go into it and look and see what the state paid
17 for already. It seemed like the best way to do it.

18 Again, I think this document is basically the
19 legislature saying, "This is what we see as
20 priorities." But, I mean, I certainly am getting calls
21 from people that say it appropriates, you know, the
22 next four months all today -- you know, not meaning

1 today but right away.

2 And if you do that, I mean, I'm not sure each and
3 every one of us knows what's going to hit their
4 communities or the people around us in the next couple
5 of months.

6 I mean, it seems like people are starting to get
7 more nervous today. You know, originally it was
8 nervousness about the virus. Now it's about putting
9 food on the table.

10 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Well, as you say, the thing is
11 constantly moving and constantly changing. And you're
12 right. That's why I think we have to be cautious about
13 reserving monies for something that may come up that
14 really needs our attention.

15 The \$126 million that I have on that sheet, on our
16 original sheet, came from a document that I received
17 from Jerry. And it counted \$125,600 that was spent
18 COVID response spending by state agencies to date --
19 and I guess the date is the 16th of April -- and the
20 second COVID response programs that were put in place.

21 That's where the \$125 came from. We all got that
22 breakdown. It was personnel costs, operational costs,

1 emergency order, 22 child protection and the PPE. That
2 accounted for \$28,325,550.

3 And then the state COVID response programs, the
4 Emergency Healthcare System Relief Fund allocated
5 \$14,281,086. The Emergency Healthcare System Relief
6 Fund Reserved -- that's the \$35,718,914.

7 The Emergency Domestic and Sexual Violence Service
8 Prevention Relief Fund, \$600,000 allocated. In the
9 long-term care stabilization program, \$75 million was
10 reserved. That's where I got that number.

11 Now the question that's been constantly asked is
12 how much of this has actually been spent and of the
13 monies that were reserved, what's happened. It was
14 very difficult to get an accurate response to those
15 questions.

16 But that's the document that I received and the
17 document that I worked from. And I assumed that all of
18 that money had gone out the door. And that's why I put
19 that number in place.

20 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, and Senator D, we have a
21 document from Mike Cain (phonetic) that we asked for
22 originally. And they had 26 -- and these are some of

1 the same numbers you have. The \$26 million was the
2 interagency transfer. Fifty million was healthcare
3 system relief fund.

4 And as we get down this document, we just changed
5 the names to all health care instead of that fund
6 because I think there's a lot -- there's a lot going
7 into that category, and that's what I wanted to talk
8 about.

9 But out of that \$50 million it looks like about
10 \$10.9 today went to hospitals. That was a lot of our
11 discussion the other day. We wanted to know how much
12 goes to hospitals.

13 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

14 CHUCK MORSE: Long-term (inaudible) was \$75
15 million. Domestic violence was \$3 million. And he
16 titled the document at 1.54. That was my only concern,
17 but I think the document you have before you right now
18 is pretty accurate as to the categories when we broke
19 them out, where the money actually ended up.

20 On the hospital one, I didn't try, Lou, because I
21 don't think all that money is allocated yet. And I
22 said if I start breaking this up, what do I do with the

1 stuff that isn't allocated, you know. So I didn't try.

2 So --

3 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think the breakdown is good.
4 And we know exactly where it went. That's what we've
5 been looking for, so I appreciate that. I think we're
6 on the right track -- you're on the right track -- so
7 that everybody has the complete picture here, which
8 hasn't been available but again, more available as
9 you're working on it, we're working on it. So all of
10 that's good stuff.

11 CHUCK MORSE: You know, when Josh and I were
12 talking last night, I said where the committee would be
13 very helpful, you know, if we can, you know, somehow
14 work through the week and get, you know, where we want
15 to be financially.

16 The intended use is the issue because we're all
17 hearing different things. If we need to expand the
18 categories, maybe these are the right categories
19 because I used everyone's documents.

20 I used the U.S. senator's document. I used the
21 governor's document to try and get categories that
22 resembled what everyone was thinking about as a whole.

1 So, you know, obviously I don't have AIDS in our
2 document because our committee never talked about
3 something like that.

4 But if you want to go to the federal document, it
5 was in there. I just -- picking up all those numbers
6 wasn't -- it was not -- didn't make much sense to me.

7 But I do think as we look at the categories, as we
8 hear from people on the outside, intended use is
9 probably pretty important to get -- make sure -- like I
10 talked about it the other day.

11 You know, (inaudible) private and county nursing
12 homes and all of that. You know, because there's like
13 three different categories there. You know, there's
14 not-for-profits. There's privates, and there's county.
15 Where do they fall, and which bucket do we point them
16 to when they call us?

17 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

18 CHUCK MORSE: You know. That's going to be what I
19 think is important. And last night, quite honestly,
20 because I'm dealing with Salemhaven who's got issues, I
21 didn't get to the point where I was comfortable.

22 And I said to Josh, you know, because this is my

1 senate district, not what this document's about. I
2 said, you know, I got to understand what federal monies
3 are already out there to help them so I can help them
4 through this process. You know, because I think
5 there's money out there --

6 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

7 CHUCK MORSE: -- besides this money. But I think
8 that's much harder to do, and it kind of needs
9 everybody's eyes looking at it to be honest with you.
10 So good luck.

11 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think you're right. Now
12 today, we got another document today that talks about
13 the COVID-19 Emergency Healthcare Systems Relief Fund.
14 We got allocations now as of May 5. And we have a
15 series of healthcare applicants, the Ammonoosuc
16 Community Health Center, the Greater Seacoast Community
17 Health Center, HealthFirst Family Care Center, the
18 Indian Stream Health Care Center, the Lamprey Health
19 Care Center, the Mid-State Health Care Center, and the
20 White Mountain Community Health Care Center.

21 The most was an \$800,000 loan. And the smallest
22 here was a \$250,000. And these were stated

1 specifically as zero interest loans that have been
2 recommended by the committee and approved by the
3 governor.

4 So there's another series of items. And if
5 they're low-interest loans, how are they accounted for?
6 Are they accounted for as a general fund appropriation?
7 Do we have to move them out? They're not going to be
8 COVID --

9 They're COVID related, but how are they going to
10 be handled? Do you get -- does the state reimburse
11 itself for making these loans because they were COVID
12 related? Then you have a situation who gets the
13 payback?

14 Does that go to the state or does that go to the
15 federal government? To me, that's a complicated
16 situation that somebody's going to have to deal with
17 because it all fits into this picture because it comes
18 under that 50.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Senator D'Allesandro, this is Jerry
20 Little. The COVID-19 Emergency Healthcare System
21 Relief Fund dollars, that relief fund was initially set
22 up pre-GOFERR office. And initially those loans were

1 being made with general fund dollars.

2 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, yes --

3 JERRY LITTLE: The CARES Act fund was passed and
4 the (inaudible) were received. The general fund
5 dollars were returned to the general fund and were
6 back-filled with CARES Act money so that for that
7 particular program, the Emergency Healthcare System
8 Relief Fund, they are currently within GOFERR using the
9 CARES Act relief fund to fund them so that when the
10 repayments are received if they are received, those
11 will remain CARES Act dollars and will have to be dealt
12 with in a manner consistent with the treasury guidance.

13 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, yeah.

14 JERRY LITTLE: So the general funds that were
15 initially used to make those loans have been returned
16 to the general fund lines where they came from and have
17 been back-filled with the federal dollars.

18 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay, that's good information.
19 Thank you. But you can see that when you looked at
20 this, there was a duplicity factor here that you had to
21 figure out that you have just given me the explanation
22 because if you're giving out a loan and that loan is

1 going to be repaid, well, that money's got to be repaid
2 to somebody.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Correct.

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Who made the original loan,
5 correct?

6 JERRY LITTLE: Correct.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: That money will go back to the
8 federal government. If they repay the loans, that
9 money goes back to the federal government.

10 JERRY LITTLE: Yes, or they come back here for us
11 to reuse.

12 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, right.

13 JERRY LITTLE: But as we just discussed, we just
14 got off the phone with the governor and executive
15 council. As they discussed on that call, the governor
16 does have the authority if he wishes to turn those into
17 grants.

18 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

19 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, I think if you go down to
20 healthcare too and you click on that \$305 million that
21 came in -- not us, it's separate -- that came from the
22 federal government --

1 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah.

2 CHUCK MORSE: You can start to see there's bucket
3 after bucket after bucket of money that came to New
4 Hampshire. We haven't broken that done more than what
5 the titles are for each one and how much money it gets.

6 I'm sure you could go much further, but the intent
7 was so that if I would ask a question of the committee,
8 you know -- and I'm in health care right now.

9 I don't need to be, but if I would ask a question
10 of the committee where are we going with this document
11 with, you know, nursing homes, what category it's
12 under, you know, this would be -- when you get down to
13 health care, this would definitely be a category where
14 I think there's -- we're covering that, you know.

15 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, under all other healthcare
16 providers. That would be the all-encompassing term.

17 JERRY LITTLE: I have several questions on the
18 screen. I assume it's about this topic. First on the
19 list is Representative Mary Jane Wallner.

20 MARY JANE WALLNER: Thank you, Mr. Little. So
21 this is a very simple question. I just want to be
22 absolutely sure that the \$50 million which was one of

1 the very first things that was ever announced by the
2 governor -- it was the healthcare grant or loan.

3 That has now been moved out of incurred costs and
4 has moved down to the healthcare subtitle. Is that
5 correct?

6 CHUCK MORSE: If you go into healthcare, the \$50
7 million, I believe if you add the 39 and the 10, you
8 get 50.

9 MARY JANE WALLNER: Okay, so that's where that has
10 moved to. Okay, thank you.

11 CHUCK MORSE: If you click on the 10, I think it's
12 only -- I mean, you can see which hospital got money
13 and which providers got money. That's why we did it
14 that way.

15 And then the 39, I'm not sure all that's out yet.
16 That's the only issue. But I could be wrong.

17 MARY JANE WALLNER: So when we get down there,
18 when we get down to the 50 million, can we have some
19 conversation about where we are in getting that money
20 out because that was the very first -- those were the
21 very first funds that were made available and that was
22 several weeks ago.

1 So I wanted to see if we could get some sort of an
2 update on where we are with getting those monies out
3 there to hospitals or healthcare providers.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Wallner, this is
5 Jerry Little. There is an updated dashboard on the
6 GOFERR website at this point in time with yesterday's
7 date on it.

8 Under the healthcare relief fund it shows an
9 allocation of \$50 million, expended of \$18,070,574 with
10 \$31,929,226 remaining unexpended of the \$50 million.

11 MARY JANE WALLNER: So I wondered if when we get
12 down there, when we get to that, maybe we could have
13 some discussion about, you know, how many applications
14 are waiting or holding, what do we think -- what's the
15 timing on getting that money out.

16 JERRY LITTLE: Sure. We can either do that now or
17 we can wait till they get down there. Your call.

18 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Why don't we wait until we get
19 to the item so that we can walk these things rather
20 than confusingly jumping from one to -- I'm trying to
21 follow this on my screen, so I got to jump back and
22 forth, in and out.

1 If we could just follow Chuck's lead and let him
2 walk us through it, we can ask all the questions at the
3 appropriate time.

4 JERRY LITTLE: That works for me.

5 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I hope it works for everybody.
6 It's a lot easier to follow if we do it that way rather
7 than jumping back and forth.

8 MARY JANE WALLNER: No, I agree.

9 CHUCK MORSE: Here's the thing. You've only had
10 this document for probably three hours, not that I've
11 had it much longer. I mean, it took most of the day.
12 I was trying to make this legislative friendly, you
13 know, which is different than accounting type people.

14 So that's why if you drop down to state government
15 now, and you want to know what's in the \$60 million,
16 you can click on it, and you can understand that.

17 The front-line workers, the governors put a total
18 of \$100 million into that category so far. So I think
19 under state government, we've exceeded what was on
20 Senator D'Allesandro's document by probably \$25-\$30
21 million.

22 So I left that one alone in that category with

1 what's been appropriated and all three are ready. You
2 know, but you can go on to those numbers to find out
3 what it's being used for.

4 So, I mean, it's -- you know, it's -- I don't
5 know. I think it's self-explanatory. I didn't see a
6 need to add money to that category right now. Do I see
7 a need at the end of May and the end of June? Maybe,
8 you know.

9 But if you go down to local and county government,
10 this number's interesting. If you click on the \$40
11 million, there's an allocation -- and this is all new
12 to me, so, you know, correct me when I'm wrong, Jerry,
13 or anyone else on the call.

14 The \$40 million, if you click on that, the
15 allocations come out by population in the community. I
16 do not believe you actually just get this money. I
17 believe this has to be applied for in order to get up
18 to that amount of money.

19 I don't think it's a direct check to each
20 community. But if somebody on the line knows better --

21 JERRY LITTLE: Jerry, you're correct.

22 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: You're correct, Chuck. You're

1 correct, absolutely. That's it. You've stated it
2 exactly as it was put out. And I think we're to notify
3 our towns of how to get this money. And it was an
4 application process. You got to ask for it. Is that
5 correct, Jerry?

6 JERRY LITTLE: That is correct. You're both
7 absolutely correct. The numbers you see beside each
8 town on that document that gets linked to from Senator
9 Morse's spreadsheet is the total amount that will be
10 available to that town.

11 So there are going to be three reporting dates
12 between now and the end of July I believe. And what
13 they need to do is to -- what the towns need to do is
14 to submit to us a request for reimbursement of COVID-19
15 specific funds that are not FEMA -- eligible for FEMA
16 reimbursement.

17 So this is to cover any gap that they're going to
18 experience outside of FEMA funding. And so there are
19 three reporting dates. And each town will submit to us
20 a list of COVID-19 expenses with a request for
21 reimbursement. We'll get the payment out to them
22 within 30 days of receipt of that.

1 The maximum that they can receive in total is --
2 using the first town alphabetically, Acworth at \$21,282
3 over those three disbursement periods. So we're not
4 going to send checks to them. They need to submit
5 reimbursement requests for COVID-19 specific expenses.
6 So I got that one right.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Perfect. You were right on,
8 Morse, right on. You hit the lottery there, Morse.

9 JERRY LITTLE: So I do have two questions on the
10 screen right now. And we're on the topic of state and
11 county government I believe. Representative Hennessey
12 has been waiting for a while to ask a question.

13 ERIN HENNESSEY: Thank you, Director Little. My
14 question's already been answered. Appreciate it.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. Sorry we didn't get to
16 you faster. Representative Mary Jane Wallner has
17 another question.

18 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes. I was just wondering
19 communities have been notified about this funding and
20 the process they need to go through, is that correct?

21 JERRY LITTLE: That is correct. They have been
22 notified. Not only are the details available on the

1 GOFERR website, but we went through the Department of
2 Revenue Administration and used the contact list that
3 they had to notify each of the municipalities and
4 counties of the availability of these funds in their
5 name.

6 MARY JANE WALLNER: Thank you.

7 CHUCK MORSE: All right, well there's -- I don't
8 know what's in that \$12 million federal number, but if
9 you click on it, I'm sure you can see what that is.

10 If you get down to -- if you get into core
11 profits, and we start to talk about business, there's a
12 couple of things going on here. One, I believe Bill
13 Ardinger -- I keep bringing up his name.

14 I believe he's working on some kind of formula to
15 -- you know, to work with BFA. But I think the point
16 is to cover all aspects of business, you know, someone
17 that needs a \$2,000 grant. We heard a lot about, you
18 know, they had a fund that did I think up to \$10,000.

19 I think that's what he's working on. I haven't
20 seen -- I mean, I get a letter from him basically
21 explaining what some of the things are that are in BFA
22 now. But I don't have a solution here.

1 I just have a theory that if you took \$100 million
2 and you're working with banks -- and I'll point out
3 something else that's pretty obvious here in a minute -
4 - you probably in theory could turn \$100 million into
5 \$500 million.

6 If you treated this money as grant money, banks,
7 you know, on a 20/80 funding analysis probably would be
8 helpful to -- and again, this is going to be businesses
9 that are going to make it because BFA I doubt would
10 fund anything that they thought wasn't going to
11 survive.

12 That's where I think the multiple actually helps
13 the state of New Hampshire. If you go over one more
14 column and you look at that -- if my math's right,
15 that's \$2,075,000,000 -- you know, chiefs of staff -- I
16 know the senate president can appreciate this -- are
17 people that you learn to admire.

18 Well over a month ago, I contacted since he was
19 working with the banking association. And I said, you
20 know, the most important thing you can do -- and this
21 was five o'clock in the morning, so I wasn't bashful --
22 is to make sure businesses know how to go forward with

1 this payroll protection thing.

2 I asked Josh to pick that number up, and that's
3 the number we have right now. And to give credit to
4 the banking association, she told me they were already
5 working on it once they called her. But I thought it
6 was one of the more important things the state of New
7 Hampshire should chase.

8 And that's a nice number to be working with in the
9 economy in the state of New Hampshire, quite honestly.
10 Some of you people that are -- understand, you know,
11 whatever, our economy is working in New Hampshire.

12 I don't know if Erin has a number or something,
13 but the \$2 billion's a nice number to get through
14 March, April, and May with, to be honest with you. And
15 I believe it was an eight-week period that they were
16 looking at.

17 So anyhow, the model I think is to be determined,
18 and that's why I thought it'd be helpful to meet with
19 Donnalee's phonetic committee to talk about this
20 subject as one thing.

21 And I think in many cases, people worried about
22 the smaller businesses being able to participate in

1 this and the -- you know, I think there's all kinds of
2 ways that BFA can help us do that. So I just put it
3 out there, so --

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think it's a good number.
5 When BFA came before us, they talked about 75 and 25
6 were the two numbers. And you put them together you
7 got the 100.

8 And based on the items that you have on the
9 furthest side of the graph, all of the things that you
10 talked are in place, and certainly they have the
11 ability to move this money out in terms of loans and
12 guaranteed loans and so forth, working with the
13 business.

14 But that's the number they said they could work
15 with. They thought that that was a good number. And
16 we're certainly going to need it. I don't think
17 there's any question about that.

18 And the \$2 billion, that's a driving number.
19 There's no question about that, so I think this is a
20 good start to get things going. And they need it. And
21 that's sort of a direct reaction to the testimony given
22 to us, which I thought was very good, by the way.

1 But the association with the other committee will
2 really help in expanding on this one in terms of what
3 they have in the works in terms of a plan.

4 CHUCK MORSE: All right, I think this category
5 needs work in the sense of process. But it's the same
6 number you had on your document, Lou.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yes.

8 CHUCK MORSE: So that's all I plugged in there.
9 At one point I tried to break down the 75, 25 and --

10 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

11 CHUCK MORSE: -- I'm not sure it was worth my
12 effort because I know, you know, that there's a whole
13 bunch of people. It seems like every time I pick up a
14 phone and I call somebody, someone else has beat me to
15 calling that person.

16 So I don't -- I wasn't going to waste my breath
17 trying to over-design this thing. So I think the
18 number is probably the right number. I just don't know
19 how it should be allocated.

20 To the extent that people go home and start
21 working on this tonight, you probably could work on
22 breakdowns. You know, maybe -- I know several of you

1 know Bill anyways. Maybe we want to call him, I mean,
2 and just talk it out. But --

3 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Good point. I mean, this was a
4 reaction to their testimony when they appeared before
5 us. And I just jotted those numbers down and tried to
6 follow their line of reasoning. And this is the number
7 that I thought would be brought forward for discussion.

8 So others certainly have their opinions, but it's
9 a good entity to get things going. We recognize the
10 fact that we need relief and I thought the number was
11 appropriate, again based on their testimony.

12 CHUCK MORSE: Okay, I just need to step off for
13 two minutes to answer a question, so I'll be right back
14 on.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Would the committee like to
16 continue and move on to -- unless there are -- are
17 there any questions or comments relative to business
18 relief funding?

19 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think the next category, the
20 agricultural relief, was the \$5 million that was asked
21 for by the commissioner. And it seems to me that was
22 pretty much self-explanatory by his comments with

1 regard to (inaudible) because of significant losses.

2 So I don't know (inaudible). There was a lot of
3 commentary other than from the commissioner on that
4 one, Jerry. But I think, Jerry, while Chuck's away,
5 the meeting with the two committees, is that being
6 orchestrated as we speak?

7 JERRY LITTLE: Yes. I know that Donnalee Lozeau,
8 the chair of the Stakeholder Advisory Group, has been
9 talking with Joe Doiron, who is the deputy director
10 here, about organizing a meeting. We're not sure what
11 date.

12 I think that this committee thought that this
13 Friday would be the best time, which would give us
14 another day or two to digest the information that you
15 and Senator Morse have presented. I'm just not sure
16 whether or not that works for the Stakeholder Advisory
17 Board. They are already scheduled to meet on Thursday
18 at two o'clock

19 So as soon as this meeting is over, I will step
20 out and speak with Joe about what he and Donnalee are
21 thinking about a joint meeting and when that might
22 happen. But I think everybody agrees it needs to

1 happen.

2 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: It needs to happen and as
3 quickly as possible I think because we want to get
4 things going here. I think that's very important,
5 expediting matters.

6 CHUCK MORSE: I had to cancel my -- we had a phone
7 call at eleven today. She got busy and I got busy.
8 But I think the intention was to -- I asked her to
9 delay it till Friday because we talked about Wednesday
10 and Friday. I don't know if they can do it on Friday.

11 But she -- if I look at my schedule that Shannon
12 (phonetic) sent me revised, I have a feeling I have a
13 scheduled call with her after this meeting. So I'll
14 work it out and, you know, get to a point where we
15 could --

16 I think at that point, though, we swap documents
17 to be honest with you. That's why I think if the
18 committee could get back to me with, you know, if
19 there's a number change I believe it has to be done
20 publicly.

21 If there's an intended use, I think I could add it
22 to the document for discussion. But I think she's

1 already sent me her documents. I'm just waiting from
2 the republic. So I think our committee should have
3 their documents. They should have ours.

4 They're much more into process than they are into
5 numbers. So I'm not sure these numbers matter to them
6 as much as they do to us because we're in the
7 legislature and 424 of us are answering to the public
8 every day, so it's a little different, you know.

9 But I think this document should be quite honestly
10 a guide to exactly what we're hearing on the phones
11 from people. That's why I think intended use is
12 important.

13 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Soucy, do you have a
14 question, Senator?

15 DONNA SOUCY: Yes, are we still doing the five
16 star or is it just a free flow?

17 JERRY LITTLE: We're accepting the five star --

18 DONNA SOUCY: (Inaudible) why I'm asking. Just
19 before I even ask, I want to make sure we're still
20 following the same procedure.

21 I'd like to go through the whole document. And
22 obviously there are going to be some things that we

1 need to ponder. But I would hope that when we get to
2 the end of the document today, we can look at a few key
3 areas.

4 I really believe that this money in some instances
5 is really urgently needed. And I think we have to push
6 a few of these things through now. And I think that's
7 been the expectation.

8 Certainly the governor said he was going to get
9 this money out as fast as possible. So I think at
10 least in some subject areas, we need to make some
11 decisions sooner than later. So hopefully at the end
12 once we've gone through all the categories we could
13 revisit a few.

14 JERRY LITTLE: So if I could restate, I believe
15 that is a request that we move through the document and
16 discuss whether or not the amounts and purposes are
17 correct and then come back to discuss details. Is that
18 correct, Senator Soucy?

19 DONNA SOUCY: Yes, because I think there are at
20 least two or three key areas that we need to act upon
21 very soon and then make further determinations as we go
22 along.

1 JERRY LITTLE: So I believe the next section on
2 your document, Senator Morse, is agriculture. And
3 while you were away, Senator D'Allesandro said the \$5
4 million that Commissioner Jasper asked for.

5 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, there were two numbers asked
6 for. I guess I didn't look at them separate because I
7 -- the one number was from Commissioner Jasper. And
8 the other number -- help me out, somebody --

9 JERRY LITTLE: That was Rob Johnson from the Farm
10 Bureau was the other number.

11 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah. I think the \$5 million that
12 was suggested is probably the appropriate number for
13 the issue. And, you know, you could figure out how
14 you're doing it.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Very good. So the next section
16 after that is nonprofits, which breaks down into two
17 subcategories.

18 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, and this -- to me, I don't
19 even know where New Hampshire Food Bank came onto this.
20 We actually went in and looked at what their yearly,
21 you know, revenue was.

22 So that's why I took this number from a document

1 that had 10 on it to five for now. But this category
2 in my opinion -- and probably goes to what Donna's
3 talking about -- this category right now probably needs
4 help immediately.

5 How the details are written, you know, the
6 guidance to give to them I don't know. But I think
7 everybody agrees New Hampshire Charities is an
8 appropriate place for money to go and have them start
9 analyzing applications. That's why I asked that
10 question.

11 You know, overall -- and I forget the number of
12 applications they got -- who's applying to them, you
13 know? But I think we'll be coming back to this
14 category more than once. That's for sure.

15 JERRY LITTLE: This is Jerry. On nonprofits, we
16 have been in discussions with a group comprised of the
17 CDFA, Charitable Foundation, and the Center for
18 Nonprofits. And the Center for Nonprofits and the
19 Charitable Foundation have been involved with us from
20 the start.

21 And they actually -- all three of those groups
22 have testified in front of us. And they are crafting a

1 proposal. We've only seen a draft. We've had
2 conversations with leaders of all three of those
3 organizations.

4 They're working together on a proposal that will
5 encompass a broad spectrum of nonprofit entities in the
6 state of New Hampshire represented by all three of
7 those groups from the community level, social service,
8 the medical communities, all the way up to arts
9 involved, economic development, and things like that.

10 And the dollar figure that they're working with at
11 this point in time for a broad proposal to touch the
12 entire state of New Hampshire and the nonprofit
13 community is \$125 million.

14 And I see we have \$15 million as the placeholder
15 in there. I think that the request we're going to --
16 and the suggestion we're going to get from that group -
17 - is at the \$125 million level. But it will be very
18 broad and encompassing. Representative Wallner, do you
19 have a question?

20 MARY JANE WALLNER: No, I was just questioning the
21 \$15 million, where that came from. I mean, that's even
22 less than we had on there last week and now saying that

1 they're coming to us with a proposal. So I'm anxious
2 to see their proposal. Thank you.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. As soon as we get it,
4 we will turn it and spend it -- excuse me, we will spin
5 it around and send it out to you. We will not spend
6 it. We will spin and send.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right. Well, that's quite a
8 diversion from the 15, the 125.

9 JERRY LITTLE: It's also -- what we're expecting
10 from them is a very broad proposal touching a lot of
11 bases. And it also leverages up the ability of those
12 well-known entities to manage, audit, track these
13 funds.

14 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, and I think, to be honest with
15 you, the request -- like if you look at the request we
16 got for 700 million. Steve Dupre's (phonetic) group
17 was on there. We funded that at about 15%.

18 If you look at hospitals, over the period that
19 they're talking about, we funded it at about 15%. You
20 know, that's south of \$20 million as the initial
21 funding. If this group and the governor see fit, you
22 know, you could put all the money up front.

1 You know, if you were to do May, June, July, so
2 four applications of 20, that's \$80 million. I don't
3 think it's out of whack if you're only looking at one
4 month at a time.

5 If you're looking at a bigger picture, and you
6 want to set up just like you're setting up with BFA,
7 you know, more like a bank, that's looking at all these
8 applications and reviewing it, you could quite honestly
9 allocate it all up front.

10 But I don't think what was talked about in the
11 original funding that Senator D put forward, what we
12 have in here, is out of whack, looking at it as the
13 short term, get the money out today.

14 If they're coming in with a plan, that's exactly
15 like the BFA's probably coming in with some plan too.
16 So I don't see an issue. One way or another, it's
17 probably going to be that big.

18 And the other thing that we had a hard time with
19 in this is nonprofits pop up in a lot of categories.
20 So this is my question about nonprofit nursing homes.
21 Do they go to New Hampshire charities? Do they go to
22 the hospital fund?

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No matter what, they need our help. I think the guidance is going to be which category they should be applying to, to be honest with you.

JERRY LITTLE: Good point.

LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think so, yes, very good point.

JERRY LITTLE: Are you prepared to move on to the next category, which is health care?

CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, this category, quite honestly, was the tougher piece because I think the category -- the governor's made two \$50-million -- I mean, he's made a \$50-million allocation to all healthcare providers. I think somewhere along the way we would suggest \$50 million in that category.

Or that might have just been me. That's maybe why I -- because I think all other providers was a huge category. You know, you had dentists asking for things. Certainly when you click on one of these you can see a lot of doctor's offices asked for help.

I know some other doctors' offices went to the payroll protection plan where they thought it made more

1 sense for them. The hospitals seem to need -- I think
2 it was Erin that brought it up the other day on the
3 call.

4 Every one of the groups that I've talked to is
5 telling me they haven't seen the money yet. You know,
6 we saw \$8 million, or \$8.5 million, but that's it. And
7 all the documents I'm reading are basically saying they
8 got a hell of a lot more than that coming.

9 This one's a little harder to figure out where we
10 should plan in both categories, I mean, because both of
11 these groups have been affected by the initial issue
12 which is the virus.

13 They've all been affected directly by it, totally
14 different than what I think we're going to see in
15 business down the road. I mean, this is -- they know
16 their problem already and they certainly said April was
17 going to be the biggest problem.

18 They were hoping to get a little bit back on track
19 in May so that they could stop some of the bleeding,
20 but they're not going to get there totally at all. So
21 anyhow, this was a stab at trying to fund the category.

22 And I think the bigger issue is where it says all

1 other healthcare, what gets lumped into that category.
2 You could separate that money out. You could give more
3 to hospitals. You could do -- I don't know.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Soucy, you have a question?

5 DONNA SOUCY: More like a comment. I do think in
6 this category in particular we do need to segment it a
7 bit. But I think this is one of the areas where the
8 money is really needed now. The hospitals absolutely
9 need the money even though they have just this week
10 started to take in some procedures.

11 It's a pretty bleak picture, and we have asked
12 them to do an awful lot. So I would hope this could be
13 one of the categories at the end when we come back we
14 could -- I don't think the 75 is enough. I think it
15 needs to be more like 100. And then I think we need to
16 do another 100 in reserve.

17 I agree with staggering it because I think the
18 needs are going to be different 30 days from now than
19 they are now. So I think we would distribute it
20 differently between the hospitals. But I do think it's
21 money that needs to get out there sooner than later.
22 They're definitely in need of it.

1 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Wallner, you have a
2 question.

3 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, and I would agree with
4 what Senator Soucy just said. But in the area of all
5 other healthcare providers, that is a really big mix of
6 healthcare providers. And I wonder if we've given any
7 thought to how we would disburse that funding.

8 Would that be some sort of an application -- like
9 dentists, would there be an application process? How
10 would we disburse it? And we have a good proposal
11 maybe coming from the nonprofit center and the
12 charitable trust. Do we have an organization that
13 might do the same thing with this group?

14 CHUCK MORSE: Well, I just -- Senator Soucy, the
15 other day -- I mean, I think it's a group of five that
16 made all the decisions that if you click on that 39 --
17 if you click on that number, I think there's a group
18 already in place.

19 I think the question that the committee was
20 concerned about is is this all allocated and is it all
21 out, you know. That question was one that kept coming
22 up every -- and Jerry said it's out there now and we

1 can see it. It looks like it's all allocated.

2 You know, I suppose we could check with a couple
3 of those hospitals to see if they've already gotten it.
4 But, Jerry, are those loans on the hospital case or are
5 those grants?

6 JERRY LITTLE: At this point I believe they are
7 loans. As I mentioned earlier during a conversation
8 with the governor council earlier this morning, the
9 similar question was asked and whether or not they
10 could be turned into grants.

11 And the answer provided was that if that's what
12 the governor wishes to do, the governor could do that.
13 But these are contractually agreed-to loan documents at
14 the moment. So --

15 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Is the answer that the governor
16 will make a decision as to whether they're loans or
17 grants?

18 JERRY LITTLE: That's correct, sir.

19 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: And when would that be
20 forthcoming?

21 JERRY LITTLE: I think all of these things are
22 very much in flux at this point in time because none of

1 us really know exactly where we're going with the
2 coronavirus/COVID-19 situation. We just have to stay
3 flexible on all of these decisions.

4 So I can't -- I have no idea when that decision
5 might be made. The funds in this program are going out
6 initially as loans.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Okay.

8 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Soucy, you have another
9 question I believe?

10 DONNA SOUCY: Yes, thank you, Commissioner. The
11 first \$50 million and the process involved there I
12 don't think is one that we want to replicate.

13 I mean no disrespect to any one of the
14 individuals, but as early as a couple hours ago before
15 we got on this call, I heard from hospitals that had
16 applied for these funds that are still waiting to hear,
17 that haven't gotten a response one way or another.

18 And the information has been coming out in dribs
19 and drabs. It hasn't been forthcoming. It's been very
20 hard to attain, so I don't know that that's a model we
21 want to continue with.

22 I think we need to come up with something else,

1 and I think we need to do it in pretty short order so
2 that we can get specifically hospitals and then the
3 other categories of providers a process that's more
4 nimble, more transparent and that gets the money out
5 the door that they actually need.

6 CHUCK MORSE: It looks like the answer to our
7 question, though, is out of that \$50 million, \$28 of it
8 has not been appropriated yet.

9 DONNA SOUCY: And that's a problem.

10 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: It's a big problem. That was
11 in April that money was put together. So, I mean, here
12 we are in May and the hospitals that have applied are
13 still hanging, waiting.

14 MARY JANE WALLNER: And I wonder if we could get
15 some information about how many applicants there are
16 that are waiting and what is the delay.

17 JERRY LITTLE: So there is some sensitivity around
18 these funds which the intended purpose was to initially
19 deal with hospitals primarily, but other healthcare
20 providers that were in significant cash crunches and at
21 risk of having to take some very unfortunate steps.

22 I don't think there's any secret that LRGH was a

1 primary target of this product to save them from what
2 could have been a catastrophic situation.

3 And so what the institutions involved are being
4 asked to provide is a look into their cash flow and
5 their business projections and that it's a mechanism
6 for triaging problems within the healthcare industry
7 primarily.

8 That was its initially intended purpose. However,
9 it's been opened to a wider array of organizations and
10 other steps have been taken to relieve the immediate
11 cash flow needs of these institutions.

12 For instance, the (inaudible) payments have been
13 delayed to the end of May, which for many of the
14 institutions involved alleviated their immediate need
15 for the cash.

16 So there's a live program that is going to be
17 putting out more funds at this point in time. At the
18 moment, there have been a little over \$18 million of
19 the \$50 million distributed. We've got almost \$32
20 million remaining to put out there.

21 You can see on our website the institutions. It
22 looks like there are six hospitals and dozens more

1 general healthcare providers who have received money.

2 I'm not sure that that answers your questions or
3 your concerns. The message I'm trying to send is that
4 it's a very fluid situation with some sensitivities to
5 it.

6 CHUCK MORSE: Well, and then the documents --
7 (inaudible) the numbers that are on this sheet and the
8 documents that I looked at originally I was told there
9 was about 30% federal funding coming in.

10 I certainly saw documents that showed about 50%.
11 So the management side of this, I don't know who's
12 going to control that. I mean, I think it's an answer
13 you could get, Jerry.

14 But the reality of the whole thing is I don't
15 think we should allocate money in the future to any
16 category till we understand what happens with our first
17 round because say we do appropriate, you know -- it's
18 less than half, but it's close.

19 I can see one number we could hold back on in this
20 document, if we were making a suggestion to the
21 governor, and that's the \$50 million in unemployment
22 because we still have some money in that account.

1 The rest of these numbers, if we're going to send
2 it to the governor and send a letter with it, I think
3 we'd recommend that most of them get put in place now.

4 As for doing the hospitals for \$100 million now --
5 and I think you're seeing why I get concerned about
6 things like this -- there's \$28 million on this
7 document, Jerry.

8 So whether it's \$32 or \$28, it hasn't been
9 appropriated. I understand what you're saying, and
10 someone probably has a clearer picture than I do of
11 cash on hand. And I think that's important if
12 organizations have to prove that right now as we
13 release money.

14 So I don't know who's running the show. I would
15 think it's people that are very accounting orientated.
16 And the documents I got were five or six boxes. They
17 weren't P&L's and stuff like that.

18 And there's a lot of sensitivity to them releasing
19 documents. I mean, some hospitals won't even release
20 documents, and I ran into that, because they're not
21 allowed to. But it's a complicated issue.

22 I think if someone's going to develop a solution

1 for this, it's much like what I think I've been doing.
2 You're going to have to put a lot of time into it
3 because I don't think I can.

4 I don't think I'm technically savvy enough to
5 develop a system or recommendation. Now remember, all
6 we're doing is recommending. I mean, we're not running
7 this show. That's pretty obvious.

8 So I think the fact that we want to make a
9 recommendation and we believe it should go out now
10 leads me to believe that Friday's meeting's probably
11 important.

12 But we should draft a document financially and we
13 should draft a document that says, "Here's what we
14 believe, and we think these things need to happen
15 soon." And I think that's -- we were asked for
16 recommendations, and I think we should send them.

17 But I don't -- creating a system for this -- well,
18 I'm not -- I can't do that. I'm not the guy.

19 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator Morse.
20 Representative Wallner, your hand is up.

21 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, I just -- so when I look
22 down at the category of all other healthcare providers,

1 we have the \$39 million which is maybe grants, maybe
2 loans, and only a portion of it has been spent.

3 On the \$50 million, are we assuming the same
4 information, that maybe it's grants or maybe it's
5 loans? Or are we recommending that these will be
6 grants?

7 CHUCK MORSE: That's up to the committee. I
8 personally have a hard time understanding either the
9 state -- and what I could read in these documents
10 creating loans in the first place. I think this is
11 money that's needed and it's -- you know, it should be
12 going out as grants.

13 But banks do loans. I think to the extent that
14 people can leverage that, if we want to recommend to
15 the executive branch that they leverage certain
16 categories on here like under the business side which
17 is the model I think that's being developed, then
18 that's a great idea. I mean, I don't have any problem
19 supporting that.

20 On the hospital side, I think they pure out need
21 the cash. I don't think they want to take on any more
22 debt right now. But you'd have to be much more

1 involved to understand -- I mean, the Lakes Region one
2 I understand. And it was pretty obvious in the initial
3 inquiries, you know, they didn't have but days' cash on
4 hand.

5 You know, to look at all these hospitals right now
6 and know what they have for cash on hand, it takes a
7 different group of people to be honest with you. Some
8 people on this call could do it, but I can't.

9 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Mary Jane, I would think that
10 these would all be grants. I can't see us creating a
11 loan bank here. We're getting this money --

12 MARY JANE WALLNER: No, I would agree with you. I
13 would agree with you.

14 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: We should be pushing it out as
15 grants.

16 MARY JANE WALLNER: Right, I agree with you,
17 Senator D'Allesandro. It's just that the \$39 million
18 is up in the air as to whether it's grants or loans.

19 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yes, understand.

20 MARY JANE WALLNER: So I just want to be sure
21 whether or not the \$50 million is up in the air also.

22 I mean, I think --

1 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: And I would say --

2 MARY JANE WALLNER: I think those providers who
3 are getting the \$39 million, those are small healthcare
4 centers, and those organizations to take out loans at
5 this point is really going to be difficult for them.

6 So I'm hoping that they will turn into grants. I
7 want to be sure the \$50 million is grants too.

8 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Sure.

9 JERRY LITTLE: So just -- I'm sorry, Senator
10 D'Allesandro, this is Jerry. I just want to be clear
11 that the initial -- the healthcare relief fund monies
12 that have been out so far are loans.

13 And so the question was asked this morning on the
14 governor and council meeting, could they be turned into
15 grants. And the answer came back yes. But I don't
16 have any indication that that's what's under
17 consideration right now. That was a response to a
18 question that was asked.

19 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Uh-huh, well thank you for
20 (inaudible). But I would think that the money that
21 we're talking about basically we're -- particularly as
22 it relates to this category -- we're talking about

1 grants. We're talking about grants.

2 I mean, that's how I see this money coming down
3 from the -- i believe that their intention was for us
4 to move this out the door as grants.

5 JERRY LITTLE: Well, good. I have lots of
6 questions populating the screen here. We have Senator
7 Soucy first.

8 DONNA SOUCY: Thank you, Commissioner. I
9 completely agree this next round has to be grants. I
10 really, really will continue to advocate that we look
11 at the hospitals as one category and then look at the
12 remaining categories within this grouping.

13 But I really believe there is an urgency given the
14 current state to get some of this money out the door.
15 And I don't have a crystal ball. I can't tell you what
16 it's going to be like 30 days from now, but from
17 everything I'm hearing today, the need is there.

18 The losses are significant. We've seen evidence
19 of various hospitals around the state having to lay off
20 and furlough employees and people that are foregoing
21 care that probably are still going to have some
22 concerns about going back into a hospital.

1 So it's going to take them some time to get there.
2 So even though hospitals are starting to perform other
3 procedures, it's not a lot. It's not many, and it's
4 going to grow very slowly over time. So the short-term
5 need is really critical.

6 So I think we need to -- at the very least -- I
7 think not only should the money be staged a bit. You
8 know, maybe the first half now, the second half in 30
9 or 45 days. But I think the recommendations to the
10 governor could be staged as well.

11 I think the letter that you mentioned, Senator
12 Morse, could be a recommendation of the very first
13 round, the most immediate concerns or these key areas.
14 And then over the next week, week and a half, two
15 weeks, we'll come back with the remainder of our
16 recommendations.

17 But I do feel there's some urgency here, and
18 that's part of our job is to sort of triage those needs
19 and move things along as fairly and as capably as we
20 can.

21 JERRY LITTLE: Speaker Shurtleff, you're next on
22 the list. Speaker Shurtleff?

1 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Yeah, now I'm unmuted. Jerry, I
2 don't want to belabor the point. I just want to add to
3 what's already been said. The state of New Hampshire's
4 receiving \$1.25 billion from the federal government to
5 help those in the Granite State that have been injured
6 financially by the pandemic.

7 And I can't even understand why there'd be a
8 debate on whether the governor would want to make these
9 a loan or a grant. To me, it's simple. They should be
10 a grant.

11 Part of the reason that the hospitals are in the
12 financial condition they're in now is because they did
13 the right thing. They cleared out space in their
14 hospitals to provide beds for those that may come down
15 with COVID-19. And they've suffered because of that.

16 They are so important to our state, the hospitals,
17 especially to the North Country. And the idea of
18 making this a loan instead of a grant just -- I just
19 don't see the merits in that. Thank you.

20 JERRY LITTLE: You're welcome. Representative
21 Hennessey. Representative Hennessey?

22 ERIN HENNESSEY: Oh, thank you. Sorry, I had the

1 hand raised lower thing going on in my earpiece and
2 couldn't hear you.

3 It was my understanding early on in the middle of
4 April when we had the different departments join us --
5 I believe that Karen Rounds (phonetic) mentioned that
6 these initial rounds of funding were going out as loans
7 but they would be forgivable loans, considered grants.
8 Am I wrong in my memory on that?

9 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I don't think so because if you
10 read your document dated April 17, the following zero
11 interest loans have been recommended by the committee
12 and approved by the governor.

13 The committee is continuing to review applications
14 and is expected that additional allocations will be
15 recommended and approved. Many applicants were -- and
16 so forth.

17 But clearly, clearly they were low-interest loans,
18 but from the beginning -- but remember this was from
19 the general fund. This was a general fund situation
20 that the governor set up to deal with the immediacy of
21 the problem.

22 But clearly all the documents that I've read with

1 regard to this particular \$50 million, they were zero
2 interest loans.

3 ERIN HENNESSEY: And not grants.

4 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: That's what it says on the
5 document.

6 ERIN HENNESSEY: Okay. I thought that Ms. Rounds
7 had mentioned that although they are set up as loans
8 that they are actually considered grants and will --

9 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: She might have said that at a
10 fiscal committee meeting or Rhonda. But in the
11 documents that were prepared, it clearly states that
12 they were zero-interest loans.

13 That may have changed. I'm not sure. I've got
14 that on both the May 5 document and the April 17
15 document.

16 ERIN HENNESSEY: So I agree with Senator Soucy. I
17 think that these funds need to go out as soon as
18 possible, especially since I think we're all in
19 agreement that they should be grants and not loans in
20 our recommendation --

21 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

22 ERIN HENNESSEY: -- and that if we're going to be

1 taking longer, like days or weeks to formalize our full
2 recommendation, perhaps we can break this one out and
3 just recommend this today.

4 In recommending that, I just want to disclose that
5 I am on the board of a hospital in the North Country,
6 one that hasn't received the funding yet, although I'm
7 not voting to give them the actual funding. But I just
8 wanted to remind everybody of that.

9 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, I would hope that we do
10 look at this particular item and do something with it
11 today and make a recommendation because I think it's
12 imperative.

13 And I was on a call with the hospitals with
14 Senator Soucy and I think the speaker and Mary Jane
15 this morning and listened to the numbers. And the
16 numbers are staggering really, the negatives.

17 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Morse, it looks like you
18 just put your hand up?

19 CHUCK MORSE: Well, I put my hand up because I
20 think it's much more complicated than just putting
21 money out there. I don't -- I'm all for approving
22 sending a recommendation to the governor that money go

1 out there.

2 If I'm looking at the allocation out of the \$50
3 million, you probably had profitable associations in
4 there. I know in my particular case where I helped a
5 doctor, he chose not to go to that fund because he
6 didn't want to deal with whether it was going to be a
7 loan or whether it was going to be a grant.

8 So he went to payroll protection. He thought it
9 was a better place for his organization to go to. I do
10 believe they need money, but I also think -- I'm
11 looking at a document that was sent to me. And all
12 this was sent confidentially.

13 I had a breakdown of two critical access hospitals
14 and two other hospitals. I'm looking at the fact that
15 the variance from expenses to income over the time
16 period that I asked for was a number of \$22 million.

17 And then I'm looking at the very end of the
18 document and they received \$11 million in all kinds of
19 categories, but they showed that. In the document it
20 says, "Total grants, \$11 million."

21 So they have an \$11-million problem, which is
22 half, okay? If I looked at a couple of the other

1 institutions, it's not. And if I look at one other
2 it's not. And then I looked at the other two, and
3 they're close.

4 So the reality of it is this is a very technical
5 area, and probably will be lobbied heavy. And what I
6 don't want to do is basically I think it's an important
7 category. I think we have \$125 million in total and
8 how the breakdown happens, I've said I think to the
9 right of that needs to be thought out.

10 But the reality is I guarantee you somebody's
11 going to come back after this conversation today and
12 say, "We know that this hospital has 90 days of cash on
13 hand." And nobody on our phone call knows that. And
14 they probably know what all -- I know they know this.

15 They probably know what all the institutions have
16 for cash on hand and they're probably trying to work
17 within that parameter. I'm sure on the other end,
18 putting this allocation out there, the pressure is
19 there's \$1.2 billion.

20 How much of it's going to go to hospitals, how
21 much is going to go to businesses, how much of it's
22 going to go to unemployment trust funds? I think

1 that's a much more effective way for this committee to
2 look at it as an analysis.

3 I don't see a hurry to go beyond creating the
4 document that deals with today. And then we come back
5 at the end of May and do the same thing because by then
6 -- the hospitals will not have their financial
7 information for April, which is the worst month they're
8 going to have, until May 15 from my conversations with
9 them.

10 That's when they'll be trued up for the month of
11 April in the form of a P&L-type document. I don't want
12 to speculate. I don't know it well enough. I mean, I
13 would think with the fact that the state's sitting on
14 \$28 million, if somebody needed it immediately today,
15 then it would have been accounted for.

16 I'm not involved in that process, but I think our
17 appropriation was appropriate. If we want to move the
18 money around (inaudible), I also think we need to
19 define that second category.

20 You can see what they funded so far, but I think
21 it needs to be broader. I'd be careful because we're
22 only recommending and that's why I said take 45% of the

1 money and recommend where we see the priorities.

2 You know, on the other end of this recommendation,
3 the answer could be straight up we got a better idea.
4 Obviously that's happening with the \$125 million that's
5 been asked for nonprofits.

6 Somebody's working on something much grander than
7 we had even with our original thoughts. I don't know.
8 I don't want to go beyond where I think our level of
9 recommendations may be because we're not managing this
10 process. The executive branch is.

11 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: But the executive has asked us
12 -- or informed us to make these recommendations based
13 on testimony that we have received and to make our best
14 judgment. And I agree that we should reserve some. I
15 mean, that's always been my premise from the beginning
16 of this process.

17 But recommendations were asked for, and we're
18 going to come to a point in time when we make these
19 recommendations. That's what we've been doing for all
20 of this time taking this testimony. So I think it's an
21 imperative.

22 We're not going to know everything. Heck, nobody

1 knows everything. When it relates to the hospitals, we
2 know some things. We don't know other things. But the
3 thing we do know is that the burden's been significant
4 and we've asked them to do certain things. They've
5 done that.

6 And as a result of that, I think cash flow is an
7 important item. So I think we have a responsibility to
8 do something to the best of our ability. And I agree
9 with Chuck. You know, we're recommending. We're not
10 making decisions.

11 We're recommending that these things that place
12 but it's been -- I think it's pretty clear that the
13 executive is making the decisions. I mean, just look
14 at what happened on Monday. If that's not a clear
15 indication of who's making the decisions, I don't know
16 what is.

17 JERRY LITTLE: So I have several hands raised.
18 We're going to go in this order -- Senator Soucy,
19 Representative Wallner, and then back to Senator Morse.
20 So Senator Soucy?

21 Senator Soucy: Thank you, Commissioner. I just
22 wanted to be clear. I'm not suggesting that we will

1 decide -- we the eight people on this call will decide
2 -- which hospitals get the money. Much like the
3 initial \$50 million, my understanding is not every
4 hospital applied.

5 Some made the decision to forego because they felt
6 they were in a better position and there were those
7 like -- since we've mentioned it on the call -- Lakes
8 who might have needed money more quickly. But we know
9 that more than half the hospitals did apply, did have
10 needs.

11 And I just think as an important first step for
12 their planning purposes -- I mean, look, these are
13 major institutions. They're making decisions on a
14 nearly hourly basis to respond to what is a crisis that
15 none of us has ever experienced before.

16 I think there is some benefit and also security
17 for these major institutions to know that at least for
18 the short term, some of these funds are being released
19 so that they can begin to plan and think about how
20 they're going to bring people back, which procedures
21 they're going to do.

22 I think they just need that advance and I think

1 they've proven that the need is there. I'm not
2 suggesting, as I said, we're going to decide this
3 hospital gets X dollars, that hospital gets X dollars.

4 There are people that are better trained and
5 better prepared to do that than us as individuals. But
6 I think at the very least I think we can express to the
7 governor the urgency to do more than what has been done
8 for these entities.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator. Representative
10 Wallner?

11 MARY JANE WALLNER: Thank you. So I just wanted
12 to go back to my original question was are we -- so in
13 the nonprofit and for the for-profit programs that we
14 are suggesting to set up, we've gone to outside
15 organizations to really administer those and to help us
16 get through that process.

17 And I'm wondering if in the all other healthcare
18 providers we know of an entity outside that might be
19 able to help us do that and we might make a
20 recommendation that they put together a program and
21 entertain the requests.

22 All other healthcare providers is a very, very

1 large number of organizations. And they, like the for-
2 profit businesses, could get requests for \$10,000 or \$2
3 million.

4 So, I mean, I think that we probably -- if we
5 really want it to get out fast, we would be better off
6 to find an organization sort of similar to what we did
7 with the suggested for the nonprofit and the for-profit
8 organizations.

9 So that's just a thought that we maybe think about
10 that and think about who might be able to do that for
11 us.

12 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Representative. Senator
13 Morse.

14 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, listen, I don't have any
15 problem if it's committee's intent to draft a letter
16 and send off a document that we all agree on this week.
17 I mean, I think I've been suggesting that for two weeks
18 now.

19 I didn't think it was any surprise to me that the
20 governor came out this week. I had no knowledge of it,
21 but I don't think it was any surprise because he wanted
22 to get money out, just like we're all suggesting, as

1 quick as possible.

2 And I think if we wait another week, that's
3 exactly what's going to happen with all these other
4 categories. But I just think our goal is to figure out
5 what categories, how they rank to us, and that's what I
6 thought the money did.

7 You know, the only flaw I've seen today, quite
8 honestly, is on the nonprofits. People are suggesting
9 that the numbers should be much bigger. If that's the
10 case, then we go ahead and do that.

11 I don't think there's anything wrong with that.
12 But like anything else, we go ahead and do that, and
13 then we still talk about hospitals and everything else.
14 That's why I said in the original part of my preface on
15 this, I drop all categories that can wait for a major
16 decision underneath appropriations like (inaudible) the
17 state of New Hampshire.

18 I mean, if we're putting \$125 into nonprofits and
19 some number of \$200 into hospitals and so on and so
20 forth, there's not going to be \$40 million left over
21 for cabling. And I know people are working on it
22 because I talked to one of them in these calls.

1 So I think it would benefit us to tidy up this
2 document and come up with what we believe in. And if
3 we truly believe that hospitals need the money today,
4 we could start drafting some kind of letter to go along
5 with our notes to say we've done our work. This is
6 what we believe should happen immediately.

7 And I don't think that would be a bad idea. And
8 then we can continue to set up things so that we can
9 interview groups or do other things.

10 The two issues that came up that I don't know how
11 to deal with is disbursement of money, and it's both in
12 health care. The hospital and disbursement of money to
13 all others, I don't have a good answer for that, Mary
14 Jane. I don't -- you know --

15 MARY JANE WALLNER: I appreciate that, thank you.
16 Thank you.

17 JERRY LITTLE: That's all I see for hands raised
18 on this topic. Anybody else have a comment about
19 health care? Seeing none, would you like to move on to
20 the next topic, Senator Morse, which is education?

21 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, I actually got to get back
22 into the document because I went and found hospitals.

1 I'll find it in a minute.

2 But on education, the federal government has made
3 a \$87 million appropriation in New Hampshire. That was
4 broken down to I believe three categories. And in
5 those categories the money was broken down even more.

6 One was to K through 12. One was \$9 million to
7 the governor. And the other was the university system,
8 the community college system, and the private. If you
9 click on our document there, I think you can see where
10 the breakdown was in that category.

11 But I just -- there was a lot of money
12 appropriated federally. It was \$41 million I believe
13 to the colleges. I've been one that's always fought
14 for the community college system, you know, to make
15 sure they're properly funded.

16 But in any case, I just threw three numbers in
17 there that were far less than I think Senator D
18 suggested because I think again as we go through May,
19 June, and July I think we'll start to realize what
20 September's going to look like for these institutions
21 and we can make better decisions. But anyhow, that's
22 all I did there.

1 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Well, I brought those numbers
2 forward. In our original conversations I did ask for
3 more money based on a couple of things.

4 First of all, the refunds by the university system
5 were enormous, \$41.6 million in refunds. That's a huge
6 hit on your cash. The fact that the monies that were
7 given by the feds to the university system, half of
8 that money had to go back to the students, which it
9 should have been, but it had to be brought back to the
10 students.

11 So I thought an appropriation and that's fine. I
12 think it's reasonable. It's fine and with the
13 community colleges I give the same rationale.

14 And I asked for \$5 billion for the private
15 colleges because of the real impact this had on the
16 private institutions and the private institutions.

17 I've got one of them in my district. I've got
18 Saint A's and I've also got Southern New Hampshire, as
19 does Senator Soucy.

20 But they took -- look, they're tuition-driven
21 institutions in New Hampshire, with the exception of
22 Dartmouth, the endowments and di minimis truly. And

1 they need some help. They're an economic driver. They
2 hire a lot of people.

3 In most instances, they pay taxes to the
4 communities that they're located in. And in many of
5 the communities they are the largest taxpayer in the
6 community. I know that in Henniker, in Goffstown, and
7 in Rindge, the three institutions are the largest
8 property taxpayers of those in the communities.

9 So I thought that they needed some assistance.
10 And I thought that \$5 million would be a good gesture
11 on our part just to make sure that they keep going. I
12 think it's really -- it's fundamental.

13 Are they going to open in September? That's a
14 question that I don't have an answer to, but I think
15 anything we can do to help them should be done.

16 It's a tough call, but I think it's the right one.
17 That was my rationale for putting those things on the
18 additional list. And the last thing I'd put on the
19 additional list was the broadband.

20 And I thought that there are two things that have
21 shown us that we're really inadequate in this area.
22 And one was the education situation, and I'm talking

1 about the K through 12 that we put our educational
2 institutions in because of the fact that we eliminated
3 the school.

4 Found out that in some areas it was okay and other
5 areas it wasn't okay. With so many people working from
6 home we also found out that we had some inadequacies in
7 that area.

8 And we've been on broadband expansion for a long
9 period of time. I think the time has come when we have
10 to invest in it. That I think is very, very important
11 as we move forward and come out of this very difficult
12 situation. So that was my rationale.

13 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions or comments about
14 education. Senator Morse?

15 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, and I don't disagree at all.
16 I mean, I've always found though in trying to build
17 budgets in the state of New Hampshire, you know, it's
18 basically -- today to me, this week, it's about what
19 are the essential priorities in this document that have
20 to get to the governor and have to be approved this
21 week.

22 That's kind of how I looked at it. And I did not

1 -- because there was a number -- I don't know where it
2 was discussed about the state budget. I still don't
3 even know if we could do that with this money. But I
4 put it on here so that we'd talk about it.

5 Does that have to happen today, this week? No, I
6 don't think so. And then we certainly talked about --
7 and I forget how this happened yesterday. It might
8 have been Representative Hinch that detailed about what
9 the legislative branch spent.

10 You know, was it a number that we couldn't handle?
11 And with the fact that we may be going into session and
12 stuff, it truthfully may be a big number. So I think
13 those don't need to be decided this week.

14 And I was on the mentality -- just so everyone
15 understands -- that this is a document that needs to
16 get out this week. But I didn't want to push too much.
17 But it sounds like you people believe the same thing I
18 do.

19 So I think that was -- you know, come Friday,
20 whoever wants to figure out how to wrap this up, if
21 someone wants to take a stab at what the letter would
22 look like, and circulate that with us, I think that'd

1 be important.

2 And then tidying up a few of these financials in
3 here, we just have to come to something that we could
4 all agree to. But I don't think it would be that
5 difficult based on what I'm hearing.

6 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I concur. I think you're
7 absolutely right. And the \$200 million that I asked
8 for reserve for the state budget, you're right. That
9 doesn't have to be dealt with immediately.

10 That was just -- that was a thought that I had
11 given what I see happening to our budget. But we're
12 not going to know what that case really is until the
13 end of June and there are a number of things in place.

14 I mean, the fact that the taxes aren't due until
15 the end of June will have an effect on us. But that's
16 something I just put out there, and my concept of
17 reserving some monies was a good thing to do.

18 And you have really kind of accepted that, Chuck,
19 in this context. You've said May 31, June 30, July 31,
20 August 31, we would apportion dollars that we have
21 reserved based on the needs manifested during that time
22 period.

1 I think, yeah, to me that's good budget
2 management. It's very good budget management. You
3 always keep something that you can use at an
4 appropriate time in the appropriate place. That's
5 sound fiscal management, something we really have to
6 pride ourselves on.

7 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions or comments?
8 We're on education. The only other category I see is
9 other. Childcare providers.

10 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I would -- can I ask a question
11 of Mary Jane, please?

12 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, of course.

13 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Mary Jane, when I looked at a
14 document that was sent to us by Senator Shaheen, child
15 care and development block grant of \$6.9 million, how
16 was that -- who got that money?

17 MARY JANE WALLNER: Oh, I think that is going
18 directly to the Child Development Bureau where the
19 state of New Hampshire provides scholarships for low
20 income families to go to child care.

21 I think I have seen some of that information. And
22 I think actually some of the eligibility is going to be

1 expanded -- can be expanded to include scholarships for
2 healthcare workers' children.

3 I think what the request was was to set up a fund
4 similar to what we're doing for our business community.
5 If you think of most childcare centers are just small
6 businesses.

7 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Right.

8 MARY JANE WALLNER: And what they need is money to
9 get -- funds to get up and operating again because they
10 have been closed down now, many of them. About two
11 thirds of the childcare providers in the state have
12 been closed down now since about March 13 I think.

13 And they're going to have a hard time. They're
14 going to have a real hard time coming back. And
15 they're coming back under some very strict regulations.
16 And they're coming back with a limited number of
17 children they're going to be able to provide service
18 with, even though they have facilities that could have
19 served more children.

20 They're going to need some help being able to get
21 up and running. And this is one of those areas where
22 let's get up and running quick because businesses want

1 to open.

2 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Great, thank you. Thank you.

3 JERRY LITTLE: Further questions or comments?

4 Senator Morse, if I understand you right, if I get down
5 to the bottom of your chart, at Line 37 you've got a
6 totals line that under Legislative Advisory Board
7 recommendations is \$330 million for the categories
8 proposed above.

9 And if I understand you right, it sounds like
10 you're suggesting that if we can get to the end of the
11 week and have this polished up, you would recommend
12 that communication go to the governor end of this week
13 that says, "These are the areas we think we ought to be
14 spending on right now."

15 And then below that, lines 39 through 45-ish,
16 there's a category called additional proposed spending
17 and that you would suggest that on May 31 you figure
18 out the next 15% of distributions at a value of
19 \$187,500,000 and doing the same on Jun 30. July 31, and
20 then on August 31 come back and discuss remainders.

21 Did I state that properly?

22 While we're waiting for Senator Mores to get back

1 to us, I see that Senator Soucy has raised her hand.
2 President Soucy?

3 DONNA SOUCY: Yes, I just want to go back to the
4 child care provider issue. I think this was also one
5 of those that requires advancement and that's a
6 priority immediately.

7 I think if you listen to folks in various
8 industries right now, talking about phasing people back
9 into work, one of the greatest obstacles to people
10 returning to work is their ability to access childcare.
11 And I don't think -- as Representative Wallner said,
12 these are small businesses.

13 I don't they can just unlock the door and tuns the
14 lights on and get back to work. I think there's going
15 to be some ramp-up time, but it's a critical component
16 to getting people back to work knowing that they have
17 access to child care.

18 So that has a sense of urgency as well. The
19 sooner we can determine how the disbursement of funds
20 is going to occur, the better off I think all
21 industries will be as they try to get their workers
22 back in and back up and running.

1 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you. And using that as
2 an example, if I'm understanding the document and the
3 comments I've heard Senator Morse make, I think what he
4 and Senator D'Allesandro and you are proposing there is
5 that for instance in the category of child care, that
6 there's a \$15 million figure and that if you can agree
7 that this is pretty much what you're thinking about and
8 if we can have the time to coordinate and communicate
9 with the Stakeholder Advisory Board as well, that we
10 would sooner rather than later recommend to the
11 governor that at the moment in the case of child care
12 providers, that \$15 million be distributed to them to
13 help them open back up.

14 And then if you drop down to the next block below
15 the totals line and Senator Morse in Senator
16 D'Allesandro's document, that additional money to be
17 spent would be recommended on May 31, June 30, July 31,
18 and August 31. Am I understanding it correctly,
19 Senator Morse and Senator D'Allesandro?

20 CHUCK MORSE: Yes.

21 DONNA SOUCY: I disagree.

22 CHUCK MORSE: I'll be honest with you. I see no

1 reason not to draft a document. And I was on mute when
2 I was talking to you, so I guess I wasn't very
3 effective.

4 But the reality is this committee isn't saying
5 just 330. And matter of fact, I'm second guessing
6 myself on nonprofits right now, so I guess when I get
7 off this call I need to learn more about it.

8 We also are accepting the fact that \$250 million
9 has already been appropriated. I mean, we're not
10 saying take that back. We're basically including all
11 those categories in our document.

12 So we're actually at \$580 million going out
13 immediately. The only money in that whole immediate
14 situation that I could see that we could hold back --
15 and I'm not sure it sends the right message -- is the
16 \$50 million to unemployment trust fund.

17 But the timing of when it actually went to the
18 unemployment trust fund's going to be a whole other
19 decision to be quite honest.

20 But I think the stronger thing is -- and it
21 doesn't -- it wouldn't offend me that the speaker and
22 the Senate president want to draft a letter to go along

1 with this.

2 I think we create this document, we send it along,
3 and we send along the letter that basically says we'd
4 like to see certain categories implemented immediately.
5 And we do feel there's a need to improve what we call
6 the all-up in the distribution of it.

7 I don't think that's a bad thing, and I think it
8 sends a message we want to send. I think we could do
9 that and then we could continue to meet with other
10 groups to build a better mouse trap because the
11 categories you're asking me about, I'm not the guy to
12 build a better mouse trap.

13 I'll admit even with BFA, as much as I'm
14 interested in it, I talked to Ardinger for a good hour
15 -- and Lou you probably understand what that means
16 because he loves to talk about what he loves.

17 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: He does.

18 CHUCK MORSE: You know, I learned a lot about it,
19 but technically it's someone else's ball game. When it
20 came to the hospital part of the nonprofits -- I mean,
21 all other hospitals -- yeah, I believe it needs work.

22 But it doesn't mean that we don't need to get the

1 \$125 million idea out today. I mean, not today. You
2 know, we could do this on Friday.

3 I think that's the strength of what we've done. I
4 would like to go back and find out what's going on with
5 charities. But obviously, we could all do that.
6 Anyhow, if that's where we want to head, I still think
7 intended use needs committee involvement between
8 tonight, tomorrow.

9 Josh can update that document with everyone's
10 comments, if they have a better way of putting things
11 in those lines so we make sure we covered what we want
12 to cover.

13 And then the drafting of the letter to go along
14 with this document, I'm all ears on that one. I'm not
15 going to write the letter because I'm not the guy. I
16 like numbers. I enjoy working with numbers.

17 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: I think there's a couple of
18 numbers that we should look at, and one is the
19 hospitals. I think the 75 should be at least 100. We
20 ought to think about that second round that's going to
21 go to the hospitals.

22 And I think, Donna, you wanted to discuss that as

1 an item before we ended this conversation. So that's
2 one that I think we ought to focus in on.

3 And I don't know if there are others who wanted to
4 talk about other specific categories in terms of
5 whether there was enough or -- enough money in it or
6 too much money in it.

7 But I think kudos to Chuck for all the work that's
8 been done on this. I know that I sat at my kitchen
9 table for a day and tried to work this out to try to,
10 you know, talk it around it. It's not an easy task.
11 That's for sure.

12 I think yeoman work was done and compliments to
13 Jerry and his staff and to Chuck and others for putting
14 this together. But the hospitals I think is one we
15 ought to spend a little bit more time on because of the
16 urgency of that particular situation.

17 And, Mary Jane, the situation regarding the kids
18 getting the childcare providers, that's another thing.
19 I think the 15 million, I like that number. How do you
20 get it out and who distributes it and how do you get
21 those things going so that we get the economy back?

22 Those were two that I thought we could spend a

1 little more time on. And then -- I mean, I like -- I
2 think your point about the \$50 million, we don't have
3 to put the \$50 million in.

4 We could reserve that for the second round. That
5 money's still going out of the door. When does that
6 fund get depleted is the key issue there. That will
7 dictate when that money has to be restored. Those are
8 my quick comments, so thank you.

9 JERRY LITTLE: Representative Wallner, I see your
10 hand is up.

11 MARY JANE WALLNER: Yes, I just want to say one
12 thing about -- and I hate to come in late with this,
13 but -- and I should have brought it up a long time ago,
14 and I don't know where it fits.

15 But I want to be sure that we have our eye on
16 housing. The governor's moratorium on eviction will
17 run out, and I don't remember what the exact date is.
18 But we may start to see some eviction at that point.

19 And maybe that comes within the nonprofit area.
20 But I just want to be sure that we don't lose sight of
21 that and that housing needs are someplace already in
22 our mix of funding.

1 But I just want to be sure that it's someplace.
2 And it might be in that nonprofit bucket. That might
3 be where we look to have that. So I just wanted to say
4 it.

5 And I wanted to say thank you to Jerry and thank
6 you, Senator Morse for putting the document and all the
7 materials together. I'm sure it was a lot of work, I'm
8 sure, to put all of this together. Thank you very
9 much.

10 JERRY LITTLE: On the housing issue,
11 Representative Wallner, I do know that the Stakeholder
12 Advisory Board is planning on having a thorough
13 conversation about that during their meeting tomorrow.

14 That's one of the tricky things they're trying to
15 balance and accept recommendations from both of the
16 boards, the Legislative Advisory Board and the
17 Stakeholder Advisory Board.

18 I think they've invested quite a bit of time and
19 effort into trying to figure out that housing situation
20 as well.

21 MARY JANE WALLNER: Great, thank you very much. I
22 think it's really important that it be included in one

1 of our budgets. Thank you.

2 JERRY LITTLE: So if I could summarize, I think
3 I've heard Senator Morse ask for people to get any
4 changes or clarifications they'd like to him and Josh
5 Elliott in the next day or so. I think he's requested
6 whether or not the Senate president and the House
7 speaker would like to pen a letter to the governor, a
8 cover letter to move this in sort of a first
9 installment on the use of CARES Act funding.

10 At the moment it totals about \$330 million with
11 suggested a follow-up in May, the end of June, the end
12 of July, and the end of August for further
13 recommendations as the situation develops and as we
14 learn more about how the first uses of the funds will
15 affect the state's recovery from the coronavirus for
16 additional uses of funds. Does that sound like about
17 the right summary, people?

18 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Yeah, I would think --

19 CHUCK MORSE: Sounds right to me.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Soucy, is your hand up
21 again? Is that what I see here?

22 DONNA SOUCY: It is. I certainly would be happy

1 to work on a draft letter that we could circulate and
2 discuss on Friday.

3 I would say for myself personally the end of the
4 document beginning on Line 39 with the proposed
5 spending, I think some of those dates on certain items
6 need to be advanced. I don't think we can push some of
7 these things out that far.

8 So I will be submitting my recommendations to
9 advance some of that spending. I think just a guess
10 we're going out as far as August with some of that
11 money might be problematic for some industries.
12 They're going to need to get funds sooner than that.

13 JERRY LITTLE: Can I just offer a reaction to
14 that? I realize it's not really my place on this
15 group, but I would like to state that the \$1.25 is
16 \$1.25. It's what we have.

17 Unless Congress passes another version that
18 refreshes the funds in the COVID-19 account, once we've
19 spent it, it's gone, and we have no ammunition to work
20 with. We don't know where this is going.

21 As I've been saying to people, we don't know what
22 we don't know. And generally we suggested that we hold

1 on to a couple hundred million dollars for
2 August/September/October in the event that there's
3 potential for an echo or another spike.

4 We've been blessed that we haven't seen that
5 COVID-19 spike in our hospitals yet, but there's always
6 the possibility we could. So I think a reserve
7 account, as Senator Morse and Senator D'Allesandro
8 title it, the remainder would be still there after
9 August 31, is responsible budgeting since we still
10 don't know the full -- how this is going to play out
11 throughout the summer, whether we lift the stay-at-
12 home, people flood the beaches and we have other
13 problems what we need to deal with in September.

14 So I apologize for that and thank you for the
15 graciousness of listening to me. I realize that I was
16 a bit out of place there, but I just wanted to toss it
17 out there.

18 DONNA SOUCY: No, thanks, Commissioner. And I
19 just want to be clear. I'm not suggesting we don't
20 have a reserve. I'm just suggesting that the proposed
21 schedule of 15%, 15%, and 15% needs to be adjusted
22 because I think we need to advance some of the funds

1 sooner than that.

2 I wasn't suggesting we don't have a reserve at all
3 but that we advance some of the funds earlier.

4 JERRY LITTLE: Senator Morse, you have a question.

5 CHUCK MORSE: Yeah, and understand what I've tried
6 to do is -- you know, this is my second version and
7 poor Josh. I mean, I come up with these crazy ideas of
8 buttons and things because I try to make it like I can
9 understand it.

10 The only reason those numbers are down at the
11 bottom is because of a theory. So I'm with the Senate
12 president on if you don't want to put them in that
13 order or you don't want to define them, I think the
14 message is exactly what Jerry just said.

15 I think the message is something has to stay in
16 reserve till later in the year. How it plays out in
17 between there, that's why I thought it was so important
18 to come back at the end of May.

19 If we came back at the end of May and spent
20 another 500 because we had to because we realized at
21 that point that a lot of people are hurting in
22 different categories, I don't have a problem with that.

1 I don't have a problem with that at all.

2 I agree with the theory that this should be grants
3 because that's what PPE is going to turn into -- or the
4 payroll protection plan's going to turn into.

5 And it was done as a loan up front. So I think
6 that's probably where all of this is headed. I don't
7 know what the governor's thinking at all. But, I mean,
8 the reality is I know the people that took payroll
9 protection money.

10 A lot of people that I'm talking to are out hiring
11 because they can. That's what that did. It basically
12 gave them the security, when they're not sure where
13 sales are going to be, to go out and hire. So I'm all
14 for the grants.

15 I mean, I think it works. And I just think
16 probably getting this document done for one run -- and
17 I don't think we've sent the right messages on
18 nonprofits. I understood what I was trying to do, but
19 it isn't working in my head.

20 So let me cut that number down, Donna. You know,
21 if we go deeper into the nonprofits just based on I
22 want to follow up with Jerry on what he's heard and

1 what's going on.

2 But yeah, I think it's more of a message of yes we
3 need reserves and don't spend it all in one lump sum.
4 And then on top of that, I'm all for the unemployment
5 security thing, the message that we're sending.

6 When it's done, I don't know that the funds
7 dropped below 250. I don't know. So I don't think
8 there's an urgency to get the cash out. I think
9 there's an urgency to send the message that that's
10 where we think it needs to go.

11 But I think you got to be careful on
12 predetermining things in other categories because we
13 could find out that April was really bad for hospitals
14 and worse than I saw, and we need to hit it harder.

15 I think that'll show up probably within the next
16 two weeks, to be honest with you. But I don't know.
17 In any case, I think it's a good starting point. I
18 really do think it needs other people's comments and
19 the issues to be covered.

20 And I think we need a letter to go along with the
21 document. So I think that's probably where we should
22 leave this.

1 DONNA SOUCY: Okay.

2 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: That's a good summation. I
3 think so. It's been a good day's work. Comments
4 should be brought forth pretty quickly for the
5 document. And I think it's a pretty good job.

6 Given the circumstances, the time crunch, and the
7 way we're doing this, I think it's a pretty good job.
8 Doing everything from a distance is not easy.

9 CHUCK MORSE: Speaking of jobs, I need to go back
10 to my job.

11 JERRY LITTLE: Is that a motion?

12 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: (Inaudible) to get one.

13 CHUCK MORSE: That's a motion.

14 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you.

15 CHUCK MORSE: All right.

16 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: (Inaudible)

17 CHUCK MORSE: All right.

18 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: And, Jerry, thank you for a job
19 well done. We keep going.

20 JERRY LITTLE: Thank you, Senator. We will do
21 that, and I will also reach out to Rich Lavers and ask
22 him for some clarification.

1 I believe I got an assignment at the very start of
2 the call to get in touch with him and ask if he could
3 write us something relative to the 50 million for
4 balancing the trust fund to avoid a bump in rate for
5 employers and to maintain the solvency of that fund and
6 then ask him about the federal funds for the software
7 and the hardware upgrades for their system as
8 employment security.

9 So I'll get that information for you for Friday.
10 And it's 3:25, and we're closing this meeting of the
11 legislative advisory committee. Thank you all very
12 much.

13 STEVE SHURTLEFF: Thank you, Commissioner.

14 LOU D'ALLESANDRO: Thank you.

15 JERRY LITTLE: Good-bye.

16 WOMAN: Thank you.

17 [End of Proceedings]