

THE BEDFORD CITIZEN

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Letter to the Editor Supporting the Candidacy of Kenneth Gordon for State Representative

Received from Ann Guay

As Election Day fast approaches, Bedford voters have many choices to make, including who to support for state representative. We are so fortunate that Ken Gordon is running for re-election.

During his first term in the legislature, Ken worked tirelessly on behalf of Bedford residents to ensure that the concerns of our community were addressed on Beacon Hill. One example of Ken's effectiveness as a legislator was the important role he played in helping secure passage of a law which provides permanent state funding to Bedford for costs associated with educating high school students from Hanscom Air Force Base.

By way of background, students from Hanscom have attended Bedford High School since the 1950s and currently comprise about 15% of the student body. These students add so much to Bedford High; it is a privilege to have the children of active military attending school here. There are, however, financial consequences to this arrangement that present unique challenges to the town of Bedford. While the federal government does provide some funding, it does not cover the entire cost. Although the state has provided funding for nine years to help make up the shortfall, it was subject to appropriation each year.

Enacting any new state law is difficult as it requires passage in both the house and senate and the support of the governor. Ken and Senator Michael Barrett both understood how important this issue was to Bedford and worked collaboratively to ensure its passage in both chambers. Governor Patrick signed it into law on July 22, 2014. It is quite a legislative victory and demonstrates Ken's effectiveness as a legislator and his ability to work well with other elected officials.

Please join me in voting for Ken Gordon for State Representative on Election Day.

Ann E. Guay,
Member, Bedford School Committee