



Commonwealth of Massachusetts

## MASSACHUSETTS SENATE

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Members of Haverhill's State House delegation to donate money for textbooks** *Legislators will deliver check on Wednesday*

**February 13, 2007, Boston** - Senator Steven A. Baddour (D-Methuen), Representative Brian Dempsey (D-Haverhill), and Representative Harriett Stanley (D-West Newbury) have joined forces to help support the "Textbook Project" sponsored by the Haverhill School Committee to help fund the purchase of new textbooks for public school students in Haverhill. The legislators are splitting the cost of textbooks for an entire class - \$1,625 in total.

While the Haverhill School System has been able to update their curriculum to meet federal standards set by the "No Child Left Behind Act", textbooks available to students have become critically outdated and in need of replacement. The average cost of a single new textbook is \$65, and school officials estimate that it would cost approximately \$2 million to upgrade all textbooks for grades kindergarten through 12 in Haverhill. The legislators are splitting the cost of textbooks for an entire class - \$1,625 in total.

"Providing our kids with a top-notch education means making sure they have the best, most up-to-date learning resources and tools available to them," said Senator Baddour. "What students are taught in the classroom needs to match up with the materials we send them home with to study," he continued, "I am proud to support the Textbook Project and look forward to continuing to work with our community to address this growing crisis."

“The Textbook project will be the first steps in addressing the dire need for updated textbooks for the students of Haverhill. It is critical that we supply our students with the proper tools and provide them a solid educational foundation which will contribute to their success in the future” said Representative Brian S. Dempsey.

“We’ve all helped the City of Haverhill at the legislative level. Now we’re teaming up again to help at the classroom level,” enthused Rep. Harriett L. Stanley. “I’ll enjoy writing this check!”

The Haverhill School System hopes to replace all of the old and out-dated books used in the elementary, middle and high schools by the year 2011. The Textbook Project was established so that community members seeking to help in the effort would have the opportunity to do so.

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