

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Zephan. I am a taxpayer and resident of New Hampshire and am voicing my STRONG support for HB1276 for the reasons listed below:

*NH is the second safest state in the country (<https://www.usnews.com/news/best-states/rankings/crime-and-corrections/public-safety>) and has no knife laws and limited gun laws, the lack of these laws does not result in less safety.

*Therefore, the current statute is a discriminatory law against particular types of self defense tools.

*This discrimination limits people's self defense choices rather than protecting anyone.

***Importantly**, people that may feel uncomfortable using legal non-lethal self defense tools (such as knives, pepper spray, etc.) but do feel comfortable using one of the prohibited self defense tools (i.e. brass knuckles) are unable to do so. This means, under the current law, that these law-abiding Granite Staters will either not have any means of self defense or opt for a more lethal self defense option.

*The denial of this choice runs contrary to NH values and the NH Constitution.

In the Live Free or Die state, we believe in self ownership and the ability to defend oneself. If a Granite Stater prefers to carry self-defense tools that are less deadly than firearms or knives, I see no reason as to why they should face criminal penalties for doing so.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I once again urge you to SUPPORT HB1276.