

Joan C Widmer
94 Baboosic Lake Road
Amherst, New Hampshire 03031
603-620-1531/jwidmer56@gmail.com

To the Honorable Member of the House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs,

I am in support of HB 392-FN: An Act directing the dissolution of the department of health and human services' office of health equity, department of environmental services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice, and the governor's council on diversity and inclusion.

As a registered nurse whose career was spent caring for patients here in New Hampshire, I urge you to oppose HB-392-FN. Sadly, not all individuals currently have equal access to healthcare. The reasons for this are complex and multifactorial. As a master's prepared healthcare professional, I know that the social determinants of health have a significant impact on an individual's health and their life span. The Department of Health & Human Services Office of Health Equity helps healthcare workers like myself have a better understanding of these issues and consequently to provide the best care possible for all New Hampshire patients.

In addition, the Department of Environmental Services' functions for civil rights and environmental justice are playing an important role in updating New Hampshire's Climate Plan. Shuttering this work would interrupt the grant funding and progress of many projects already approved and in mid-development, and do serious harm to disadvantaged citizens in our state who are most vulnerable to the impact of increasingly severe climate events and ongoing deterioration of environmental conditions. This is an important body of work to help guide New Hampshire to reduce emissions which are harmful to our environment, while safeguarding the economic prosperity of our state. As a forty-year resident of this state, I can't help but have noticed our warming weather. We all need to do what we can to address this issue and the New Hampshire Climate Plan will help us do this.

I urge you to vote in oppose of HB 392-FN.

Respectfully,



Joan C. Widmer, MS, MSBA, RN
Resident of Amherst NH since 1980