

Dear Esteemed Members of the NH House Health, Human Services, and Elderly Affairs Committee:

My name is Kelly Zakar and I reside with my wife in Brookline, NH. I am a pediatric nurse practitioner, in practice since 1997. As a healthcare provider, I have been painfully aware of the increased mental health burdens, along with isolation, that faces persons who identify as LGBTQ+ and specifically those that identify as transgender.

Based on rigorous scientific studies, long-standing, non-partisan academic and professional societies, such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Psychological Association, and the Pediatric Endocrine Society have recognized that gender affirming care is medically necessary for the physical and mental health of transgender youth. The health care providers who provide this care are not criminals, they are acting in the best of interest of their patients according to established standards of care.

Our state motto, "Live Free or Die," and the resulting libertarian leaning of our government, supports the rights of parents and individuals to have decision-making responsibility over their children's (or minors for whom they have custody) medical care. We cannot establish Parents Rights' bills, while at the same time denying parents the right to guide their children's healthcare decisions. This bill is inconsistent with NH values.

I urge you to vote this bill "Inexpedient to legislate" and send a message to NH that the state affirms its long held stance that medical decisions are best made in the doctor's office, between patients (and their parents) and medical providers.

Sincerely,

Kelly Zakar, MSN, RN, PPCNP-BC

5 Cider Mill Road
Brookline, NH 03033
603-620-0284