

New Hampshire

MEDICAL SOCIETY

ADVOCATING FOR PHYSICIANS & PUBLIC HEALTH SINCE 1791

Honorable Chairman: Wayne MacDonald
House Health, Human Service, and Elderly Affairs Committee
Honorable Chairman: Wayne MacDonald
Legislative Office Building
33 North State Street, Room 206-208
Concord, NH 03301

March 3, 2025

RE: Opposition to HB 377 relative to health care professionals administering hormone treatments and puberty blockers.

Dear Honorable Chairman and Members of the Health, Human Service, and Elderly Affairs Committee,

My name is Cathy Stratton and I am the CEO of the New Hampshire Medical Society. I am here today representing the Medical Society in opposition to HB 377.

Our members have serious concerns about how this proposed legislation would interfere with the critical doctor-patient relationship. As a society of physicians, the New Hampshire Medical Society opposes this bill because it directly contradicts our core principles and values. We believe that medical decisions should be made by the physician and the patient, based on a thorough understanding of the patient's unique medical and personal needs, rather than through legislative mandates. The legislature should not intervene in these deeply personal and complex healthcare decisions that require expert medical judgment.

For years, the New Hampshire Medical Society has advocated for patient rights, including the right for individuals to receive appropriate medical care tailored to their specific physical and mental health needs. This bill, in its current form, undermines these rights and disregards the expertise of medical professionals. The scientific and medical communities, including organizations such as the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychiatric Association, strongly support gender-affirming care. This care is rooted in decades of research and clinical experience, and it is guided by the principles of individualized treatment and patient-centered care. There is consensus of leading medical organizations, which emphasize the importance of personalized care and the ethical responsibility to respect patients' healthcare choices.

I would like to take a moment to spotlight testimony submitted by two esteemed New Hampshire physicians who are currently treating patients and who were unable to present in person today: Dr. Maria Boylan and Dr. Frances Lim-Liberty. Their testimony was submitted electronically and is essential to this discussion. I urge you to review it carefully.

We believe that HB 377, as written, could have unintended consequences, and we strongly urge this committee to recognize that medical decisions should not be legislated. We respectfully request that you vote **Inexpedient to Legislate** on this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this testimony. I will not be taking questions at this time.

Sincerely,



Cathy Stratton, Chief Executive Officer
New Hampshire Medical Society
57 N Main St, #401, Concord, NH 03301

