



Testimony for New Hampshire Senate Bill 268
Position: Neutral

Beth Parlato
Independent Women's Law Center
April 16, 2025

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Beth Parlato, and I am the Senior Legal Advisor at Independent Women. Independent Women fights for women by expanding support for policy solutions that aren't just well intended, but actually enhance freedom, opportunities, and well-being. We are also the authors of the Stand with Women Act, which is the sex-definition and preservation of female spaces model legislation that has been implemented across the country and most recently used as the basis for the President's executive order to define sex-based words.

Independent Women would like to thank New Hampshire legislators for their intention to protect women's rights, privacy, and safety. Acknowledging the biological differences between men and women and the importance of single-sex spaces is supported by over 80% of the country.

The amended version of SB 268 is a step in the right direction, particularly the amendment to define sex and biological sex as either male or female. We do however caution the inclusion of gender identity in the bill. By including "gender identity," the bill opens the door to allowing men to enter women's spaces. We encourage the New Hampshire State House to further amend the bill by removing "gender identity" to truly protect single-sex spaces.

We encourage you not to miss this opportunity to do the right thing and stand with women. This can be accomplished with this one simple revision to the bill. This change will guarantee the rights of all girls and women in New Hampshire are safeguarded.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Beth Parlato'.

Beth Parlato
Senior Legal Advisor
Independent Women Law Center

For questions, email states@iww.org.

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