



January 14, 2026

**RE: Testimony In Opposition to HB 1413, HB 1749, and HB 1737**

**To Chairman Roy and Members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:**

My name is Dr. Brashani Reece, and I am the Executive Director of Drop LWOP New England. I am also a survivor of attempted murder, certified restorative justice facilitator who has spent years working at the intersection of harm, healing, and accountability. I am here today to urge you to vote Inexpedient to Legislate (ITL) on HB 1413, HB 1749, and HB 1737.

I speak to you not just as an advocate, but as someone who has lived through the trauma of violent crime. When I faced my own experience of violence, I did not hunger for a cycle of further killing. What I needed was **meaningful accountability and rehabilitation**. I wanted the cycle of violence to stop with me. State-sanctioned murder does not stop that cycle; it simply adds a new link to it. If murder is wrong, it is wrong for the individual, and it is wrong for the State.

In my work as a restorative justice facilitator, I have witnessed the impossible: I have seen profound healing take place following homicides. I have seen families of victims and those who caused harm find a path toward restoration through restorative justice. Killing a person in the name of a victim is a false "solution" that ignores the capacity for human redemption and the possibility of real accountability that actually transforms lives.

As an evolved society, we must recognize that forgiveness and compassion are not signs of weakness - they are the core elements of a system that actually values human life. The current sentencing structure in New Hampshire, following the 2019 repeal, has been sufficient. We have seen no evidence that the absence of the death penalty has compromised public safety. Decades of research and science confirm that neither the death penalty nor extreme sentences like life without parole function as effective deterrents.

By reinstating the death penalty, New Hampshire would be choosing vengeance over evolution. We should be investing our resources into the proven pathways of rehabilitation and community safety - not into the machinery of death.

I ask you to choose a path of healing over a path of more harm. Please vote ITL on these bills and maintain the New Hampshire firewall against state-sanctioned violence.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Brashani Reece  
Executive Director