



Executive Council of the State of New Hampshire
State House, 107 North Main Street, Concord, NH 03301

KAREN LIOT HILL
EXECUTIVE COUNCIL
DISTRICT TWO
WWW.NH.GOV/COUNCIL

January 14, 2026

Representative Terry Roy, Chair
Criminal Justice & Public Safety
Granite Place, Room 159
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chair Roy, Vice Chair Rhodes and Members of the House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee:

I want to thank you Mr. Chair and members of the committee for taking my testimony in opposition to HB1749, HB1413 and HB1737 today.

These bills would reverse New Hampshire's decision to repeal the death penalty and expand the power of the state in ways that are costly, constitutionally risky, and inconsistent with our values. New Hampshire already imposes life without parole for the most serious crimes, ensuring public safety and accountability without resorting to an irreversible punishment that does not demonstrably improve outcomes for victims or communities .

The fiscal impact alone should give us pause. As the fiscal notes make clear, death penalty cases impose extraordinary and indeterminable costs—often in the millions of dollars per case—without any dedicated funding or staffing. At a time when the state is struggling to fund core responsibilities like public safety, mental health care, and infrastructure, these bills would divert scarce resources into lengthy capital litigation rather than prevention, investigation, and victim support .

HB 1737 is especially troubling because it mandates death sentences, eliminates mitigating considerations, and sharply restricts appeals. Mandatory death penalties and curtailed review increase the risk of irreversible error and raise serious constitutional concerns. Justice requires restraint, care, and humility. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to vote Inexpedient to Legislate on all three bills

Very Truly Yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K. Liot Hill", written over a horizontal line.

Karen Liot Hill
Executive Councilor
District 2