



January 27, 2026

NH House Labor, Industrial and Rehabilitative Services Committee
Re: oppose HB1704

Dear Chairman Creighton and members of the committee

The New Hampshire Council of Churches is the umbrella organization for seven denominations and their 300 churches across our beautiful Granite State. Together, we represent congregations committed to the dignity of work, the moral value of fairness, and the belief that people who labor deserve a meaningful voice in decisions that affect their livelihoods and families.

The NH Council of Churches cannot abide an anti-worker, anti-union bill. We support the analysis of the NH's AFL-CIO which makes clear that HB1704 undermines exclusive representation, the core of collective bargaining. This bill would create administrative chaos by forcing employers to negotiate hundreds or even thousands of individual agreements, while simultaneously increasing legal risk from inconsistent contracts. It would expose cities and towns to costly lawsuits, turn normal labor activity into criminal conduct, and drive-up property taxes due to increased spending on human resources staff, attorneys, litigation, and workforce turnover.

From a faith perspective, this bill violates fundamental values of justice, shared responsibility, and respect for the dignity of workers. Strong labor protections contribute to stable families, healthier communities, and local economies that work for everyone, not just the few. HB 1704 would weaken those foundations and shift unnecessary financial and social costs onto municipalities and taxpayers.

For these reasons, the NH Council of Churches respectfully urges the committee to oppose HB 1704. Thank you for your service to New Hampshire.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Lisa D Beaudoin", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Lisa D Beaudoin, Executive Director
New Hampshire Council of Churches