



January 28, 2026

NH House Criminal Justice & Safety Committee, Chairman Terry Roy
Re: Oppose HB 1047

Dear Chairman Roy and members of the House Criminal Justice & Safety Committee,

The New Hampshire Council of Churches respectfully opposes HB 1047. Our faith teaches the sanctity of human life and affirms that there is no hierarchy of human worth. Every life is precious, regardless of role, title, or position. Creating a separate category of capital murder based on a person's public office implies that some lives carry greater value than others, a notion that stands in direct tension with our faith conviction that all people are equal in dignity and deserving of protection.

This bill will not make elected officials in New Hampshire safer. We have strong laws that punish murder and protect public officials. Expanding capital murder statutes does not *deter* violence, prevent political extremism, or heal the divisions that give rise to such acts. Instead, it reinforces the false idea that harsher penalties create safety, while ignoring the deeper work of strengthening communities, addressing violence at its roots, and upholding justice without exception.

The NH Council of Churches urges the committee to vote HB 1047 inexpedient to legislate.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Lisa D Beaudoin", is written over a light gray horizontal line.

Lisa D Beaudoin, Executive Director
New Hampshire Council of Churches