

**RE: HB 1316 – AN ACT restricting the collection and disclosure of autism-related data by state agencies (SUPPORT)**

---

**Chairman MacDonald and Members of the Committee,**

My name is Gretchen, and I live in Salem, New Hampshire. I am the parent of autistic children, and I am writing today to urge you to **support HB 1316**.

In recent years, our state has made a clear commitment to protecting the medical privacy of its citizens, specifically by dismantling the mandatory autism registry. This bill, HB 1316, is the necessary next step to ensure that those privacy protections are not just words on a page, but a digital reality for our families.

**Privacy is Safety** For parents like me, our children's diagnoses are sensitive medical information. We share this information with the state so our children can access the services they need, nothing more. HB 1316 ensures that this data is used *only* for its intended purpose and prevents the state or third-party contractors from using "data scraping" or other intrusive technologies to build profiles of our children without our knowledge.

**The Power of Informed Consent** I especially support the requirement for **informed, written consent** before any personally identifiable data is shared outside of the state government. Our children deserve the same privacy as any other Granite Stater. As a parent, I should be the one to decide who knows my child's diagnosis, especially when that data could be shared with entities whose motives may not align with my child's best interests.

**Preserving the Spirit of New Hampshire** This bill does not hinder the delivery of services. It includes common-sense exceptions for medical care, education (IDEA), and housing. What it does is uphold the New Hampshire value of "Live Free or Die" by ensuring that my children are not treated as data points in a state-controlled ledger, but as individuals with a right to privacy.

I ask you to please vote **Ought to Pass (OTP)** on HB 1316 to protect the privacy and dignity of New Hampshire's autistic community.

Thank you for your time and for your service to our state.

Respectfully Submitted,

Gretchen Fishman  
17 Carriage Lane  
Salem, NH 03079  
gretchen\_fishman@yahoo.com