



3 North Spring Street, Suite 101, Concord, NH 03301
603 225-1947 · info@nhnonprofits.org
www.nhnonprofits.org

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RE: Opposition to HB 1675

Dear Chairman Layon and Members of the House Executive Departments and Administration Committee,

The NH Center for Nonprofits is a statewide nonprofit with more than 800 members dedicated to strengthening and giving voice to the state's nonprofit sector through leadership, collaboration, and learning opportunities. We oppose HB 1675 which proposes to establish a commission to investigate the New Hampshire Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence.

New Hampshire has a robust and effective system for regulating charities. In fact, New Hampshire was the first state in the country to establish an office dedicated to the oversight of charitable trusts and organizations. Housed in the NH Department of Justice, the Charitable Trust Unit (CTU) protects the public's interest in the organizations and assets committed to charitable purposes. Nonprofits must file an annual report (Form NHCT-12) with the CTU providing extensive financial information, including 990 tax forms filed with the IRS. Forms 990 – which are available to the public – provide a comprehensive view of revenues, expenses, programs, executive compensation, and board governance. CTU staff review these reports and may seek additional information or conduct investigations to ensure charitable funds are used appropriately.

In addition, nonprofit corporations in New Hampshire must file a Nonprofit Report with the Secretary of State every five years to remain in good standing. The Secretary of State maintains public records of leadership and structure which helps verify legitimacy and accountability of the nonprofit.

Taken as a whole, these systems promote accountability, prevent fraud, and provide the public insight into the operations of nonprofits throughout the Granite State.

Given the high level of transparency, including oversight from the N.H. Attorney General's Charitable Trust Unit, we believe this bill is unnecessary and urge the committee to recommend **HB 1675 inexpedient to legislate.**

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Reardon
Chief Executive Officer
NH Center for Nonprofits