

February 16, 2026

Opposition to HB1447 – An act restricting the use of certain public and private facilities on the basis of sex and establishing that such restriction does not qualify as discrimination

Dear Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

I am writing to respectfully express my opposition to HB1447 and to urge you to vote against this legislation.

As a resident of New Hampshire, I believe our laws should protect individual rights, promote fairness, and reflect careful consideration of long-term consequences. Based on my understanding of HB1447, I am concerned that this bill could create unintended harm, legal uncertainty, and unnecessary division within our communities.

Specifically, I am concerned that HB1447:

- Weakens existing protections or standards without clear evidence that change is necessary. HB1447 establishes that restricting access to certain facilities based on sex does not qualify as unlawful discrimination under state law. This creates a significant carve-out in the Law Against Discrimination. Once exceptions are written into civil rights statutes, protections become weaker and more unevenly applied.
- Because the bill focuses on restricting access based on biological sex (often interpreted as sex assigned at birth), it effectively permits exclusion of transgender individuals from facilities aligned with their gender identity. This forces some people to use facilities that do not match their identity, increases risk of harassment or confrontation and signals that certain residents are less protected under the law.
- Creates ambiguity in implementation, placing burdens on schools, municipalities, businesses, or state agencies.
- Risks costly legal challenges due to unclear definitions or conflicts with existing state or federal law.
- Sends a message that may marginalize certain residents rather than promoting equal treatment and dignity for all.

Public policy should be rooted in evidence, consistency, and respect for the rights of every Granite Stater. If there are legitimate concerns the bill seeks to address, I strongly encourage pursuing solutions that are narrowly tailored, legally sound, and developed with broad stakeholder input. There is limited evidence of widespread safety issues in gender-inclusive facilities in New Hampshire.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask that you vote “Inexpedient to Legislate” on HB1447.

Thank you for your service to our state and for your thoughtful consideration of this matter.

Respectfully,
Kerri Murphy

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