

To: Members of the New Hampshire House Judiciary Committee
From: John Dreher
Date: February 17, 2026

Subject: Strong Opposition to **HB 1564** – Protecting All Granite Staters from Discrimination

I am writing today to express my firm opposition to HB 1564, a bill that would systematically strip the term "gender identity" from New Hampshire's nondiscrimination statutes. This legislation is a significant step backward for our state, threatening the safety and economic security of thousands of New Hampshire residents.

Please consider the following points as you deliberate:

- **Rolls Back Bipartisan Progress:** In 2018, New Hampshire passed HB 1319 with broad bipartisan support, ensuring that transgender people could live, work, and participate in their communities without fear of being fired or evicted. HB 1564 seeks to erase these protections, making it legal to discriminate against individuals simply because of who they are.
- **Economic Impact:** Nondiscrimination laws are vital for a thriving economy. Removing these protections sends a message that New Hampshire is "closed for business" to diverse talent. Major employers in our state rely on inclusive laws to recruit and retain skilled workers.
- **Vulnerability in Essential Services:** By removing "gender identity" from RSA 354-A, this bill would allow discrimination in housing, employment, and public accommodations. No Granite Stater should be denied a place to live or a seat at a restaurant based on their gender identity.
- **Health and Safety Risks:** Research consistently shows that removing legal protections increases the risk of harassment and violence against the LGBTQ+ community. This bill would leave vulnerable individuals with no legal recourse when they face targeted mistreatment.

New Hampshire values of "Live Free or Die" should apply to everyone. This bill does not promote freedom; it promotes exclusion and harm.

I respectfully urge the Committee to find **HB 1564 Inexpedient to Legislate**.

Sincerely,

John Dreher
Hampstead, NH