

February 20, 2026

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the Judiciary Committee:

My name is Shawne Cox, and I'm submitting this testimony as a concerned New Hampshire man and a supporter of policies that protect the privacy, dignity, and safety of men and boys, as well as women and girls, in sex-separated spaces. As a father, friend, and community member, I care deeply about making sure that all of us can rely on clear, commonsense boundaries in intimate facilities and athletic settings.

Thank you for holding a hearing on HB1217, HB1299, HB1442, HB1447, and HB1564 today. I strongly urge the committee to pass these important bills, which work together to address serious issues New Hampshire families are facing every day. Government officials have increasingly ignored biological sex, forcing both women and men to surrender privacy and safety in restrooms, locker rooms, and other single-sex spaces to the wishes of individuals who believe their identity alone should override everyone else's boundaries.

As a man, I do not want women, or women who identify as men, in my locker room or my bathroom, just as I do not want men who think they are women in women's bathrooms or locker rooms. Many men also do not want their young sons exposed to women or to males who identify as women in male spaces, where boys should be able to change, shower, and use the restroom without confusion, embarrassment, or the risk of inappropriate exposure. These are not hateful or exclusionary views; they are normal expectations about modesty, consent, and respect for sex-based boundaries that used to be universally understood.

These bills are straightforward common sense: they ensure that women and girls are not required to share intimate female-only areas with men, and that men and boys are not required to share their private spaces with women or with males who claim a female identity. Together, they set clear rules for restrooms, locker rooms, prisons, sports, and other single-sex spaces while still respecting the rights and safety of every resident in New Hampshire.

This legislation simply preserves what women and girls—and men and boys—have always had: private, sex-specific spaces that protect us from indignity, confusion, and potential abuse, and that allow everyone to flourish. There is nothing controversial in expecting our elected officials to uphold this long-assumed right and to protect families who do not want their children placed in uncomfortable or unsafe situations.

If New Hampshire passes these bills, the state will clearly show that the privacy, safety, and equal opportunities of its citizens—male and female—are worth defending. I respectfully ask the committee to move HB1217, HB1299, HB1442, HB1447, and HB1564 forward. Thank you for your time and attention.

Shawne Cox