



February 20, 2026

RE: Opposition to HB 1217, HB 1299, HB 1442, HB 1447, and HB 1564

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the House Judiciary Committee:

My name is Lynn Currier, and I am the Executive Director of the New Hampshire Chapter of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW NH). On behalf of our members, I write in strong opposition to HB 1217, HB 1299, HB 1442, HB 1447, and HB 1564.

Taken together, these bills permit classification based on biological sex in schools, correctional facilities and public spaces while systematically eliminating references to gender identity from numerous state statutes – including protections tied to employment, healthcare, education, and mental health services.

As social workers, we are ethically bound to uphold the dignity and worth of every individual, advance equity, and ensure access to care without discrimination. Legislation that creates barriers for transgender and nonbinary individuals conflicts directly with our professional obligations and undermines the values of inclusion and equity that are central to our work.

While these proposals are often framed as safety measures, research demonstrates the opposite effect. Studies show that transgender and nonbinary students who face restrictions in accessing facilities experience significantly higher rates of sexual assault. Furthermore, state-level anti-transgender laws have been linked to a 72% increase in suicide attempts among transgender youth within just two years of enactment.

Policies like these do more than regulate spaces – they shape whether individuals feel safe enough to participate in daily life. When fear drives people away from schools, healthcare, and support services, the risks to individual and community wellbeing grow exponentially. These bills do not protect – they perpetuate fear, stigma and isolation.

At its core, this issue asks whether New Hampshire will continue to uphold dignity, safety, and fairness for all its residents. Policies that legitimize exclusion and discrimination will cause lasting harm to some of our state's most vulnerable residents.

NASW NH urges you to vote no on HB 1217, HB 1299, HB 1442, HB 1447, and HB 1564.

Respectfully submitted,
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