

Reed Piscopo

February 20, 2026

Members of the New Hampshire Judiciary Committee, thank you for hearing my testimony today. My name is Reed Piscopo, and I am testifying in opposition of HB1442.

Although I have been a resident of Massachusetts for the last six-years, Antrim, New Hampshire is where I spent the first twenty-one years of my life. New Hampshire is where I attended kindergarten, elementary school, middle school, and high school. I received my bachelor's degree from Plymouth State University. New Hampshire is where I learned about work ethic and held my first job. Even now, I am not disconnected from New Hampshire. I am a staff member and professor at Mount Wachusett Community College where many New Hampshire residents attend to further their education and my family and my in-laws are all still residents of New Hampshire. This is where they have chosen to settle, start new families, and retire.

I take the time to tell this to you because I want you to understand how interconnected my life still is with the state of New Hampshire and to present myself to you as a whole person, rather than a singular label. So you can then better understand how bills like HB1442 will negatively affect me, and others like me.

You see, I am transgender. I was born Hannah Fitzgerald. A girl. It was not until I was nearly finished with my undergraduate degree that I realized the body I was born in might not be

right for me. It was here in New Hampshire that I received the medical care I needed to be who I am today; happy. I received my top surgery at Lebanon, and I continue to access testosterone through a medical provider at Cheshire Medical.

But I don't need to tell you my transition journey. I don't believe that will change your minds. What I want you to consider instead is if your bills really protect women, as you claim they do. It seems to me, that in your ignorance and fear of transgender women, you have forgotten transgender men also exist. So I ask you, do you want me in the women's restroom? If I had asked this question before ever revealing I was transgender, what would your answer have been? Would you have stopped me from going into the women's restroom, thinking I was a man going into the wrong space?

I use the men's restroom because it makes myself, and I'm fairly sure others, more comfortable. But bills, like HB1442, aim to make it so I could be criminally charged for simply needing to use the restroom while out with family. I am lucky that my family would be able to instead drive to see me in Massachusetts should this bill be passed, but many other transgender people residing within New Hampshire will not have that option.

There are many other parts to this bill that I could argue against, but my time is limited. So instead I ask that you consider this: New Hampshire's state motto is "Live Free or Die." The man who said those words was a distinguished Revolutionary War hero, General John Stark. When Stark said "Live Free or Die" he did not include any fine print that excluded certain individuals. When New Hampshire adopted his words as their motto in 1945, I do not believe the

state government at that time intended for that statement to exclude any New Hampshire resident. I do believe the members of this committee should continue to uphold this integral part of New Hampshire state culture, by continuing to let all state residents live by this motto.

I hope my words today have given you something to consider, when moving forward with these bills and I thank you all for your time.