



new hampshire
WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

January 18, 2018

Representative John Hunt, Chair, Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
New Hampshire House of Representatives
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Via Hand Delivery

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 628

Dear Chairman Hunt and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation submits this written testimony in support of HB 628, and requests that you recommend the bill as Ought to Pass. The New Hampshire Women's Foundation invests in equality and opportunity for women and girls through grantmaking, research, education, and advocacy. HB 628 will help New Hampshire attract and retain a vibrant workforce through establishment of a paid family and medical leave insurance program. Paid family and medical leave ensures that workers can manage the challenges we all face when we must care for ourselves or our family members.

Nearly every working person will at some point need time away from work to recover from illness or addiction, to welcome a new baby, to assist an aging parent, or to care for an injured spouse. The question is not whether workers will need time away from work. The question is whether they will be forced to choose between taking the time they need and making ends meet for their families. The paid family and medical leave insurance program proposed by HB 628 will give hardworking people a modest hand up while still promoting personal responsibility by limiting participation to those who make contributions through payroll deductions.

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation appreciates the strong bipartisan support for this bill and will be pleased to work with the Committee as you consider it. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Sarah Mattson Dustin
Director of Policy