



new hampshire  
**WOMEN'S FOUNDATION**

January 31, 2018

Representative Joseph Hagan, Chair  
Judiciary Committee  
New Hampshire House of Representatives  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

*Via Hand Delivery*

RE: Testimony in Support of HB 1319

Dear Chair Hagan and Honorable Members of the Committee:

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation invests in equality and opportunity for New Hampshire women and girls through grantmaking, research, education, and advocacy. We submit this written testimony in support of HB 1319, which is a much-needed update to the Law Against Discrimination. Over the years, the Law Against Discrimination has evolved to ensure that people don't face discrimination because of who they are, resulting in protections against discrimination based on race, age, gender, and sexual orientation. It is long past time to extend those same protections to transgender people.

Nothing in HB 1319 would change the fact that it is already illegal to assault a woman in a public restroom or locker room. Eighteen states and over 200 municipalities have prohibited discrimination against transgender people; some of these anti-discrimination provisions have been on the books for decades. These jurisdictions have not experienced increases in harassment, violence, or any other public safety concerns in public restrooms or locker rooms. Prohibiting discrimination does not weaken laws against assault, nor compromise their enforcement.

Anyone who is concerned about safety should be concerned about the fact that nearly one in two transgender people will be sexually assaulted during their lifetime. Indeed, transgender people face disproportionate rates of discrimination, harassment, and violence in all areas of their lives. Forcing transgender people out of the public facilities consistent with the gender they live every day makes them far more vulnerable to assault. Instead, we should seek to guarantee that transgender people can use the public facilities where they are safest – those consistent with the gender identity they live every day.

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation is pleased to be a resource to the Committee if members have any questions or concerns. Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Very truly yours,

Sarah Mattson Dustin  
Director of Policy