



new hampshire

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

To: Chairwoman Ruth Ward and members of the Senate Education Committee

Re: Testimony on HB 1639, relative to the Youth Risk Behavior Survey in schools.

Date: April 19, 2022

Position: Oppose

We respectfully ask the Committee to recommend SB 234 Inexpedient to Legislate because the community organizations that receive grants from the New Hampshire Women's Foundation use the YRBS to explain their need, show progress towards goals, and inform their curriculum and programs to make impact in girls' lives across the state. The change to opt-in would drastically reduce the usefulness of the data to inform these programs and grant applications.

NHWF Grantmaking

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation invests in equality and opportunity for New Hampshire women and girls through research, education, advocacy, and grantmaking. The NHWF is the only funder in the state that focuses on women and girls. Our grantmaking program is able to grant only one in four applications, which shows how great the need is for programs supporting women and girls. The applications are reviewed by volunteers from all around the state. In the grant application, we ask organizations to describe their need. This is usually where applicants use data to explain the depth of need in their community. The YRBS is a crucial source of data for the organizations and this piece of the application is a critical factor in the review process.

NHWF 2021 Community Grantees

Belknap House

Family Promise of So. NH

International Institute of New England

Monadnock Area Transitional Shelter

Seacoast Family Promise

YMCA of Greater Nashua

Brigid's House of Hope

Feminist Health Center (Joan Lovering Ctr)

HAVEN

The Every Voice Coalition

TLC Family Resource Center

Turning Points Network

Arts in Reach

Carroll County YMCA

Children's Museum of NH

Circle Program

Clarity Connections Center

Girls at Work

Harris Center for Conservation Education

Manchester Community Action Coalition

Remedial Herstory Project

Conclusion

We respectfully ask the Committee to retain the validity of the YRBS so that organizations serving girls all over the state will have access to data to explain their need and submit applications, not just to the NHWF, but to all funders of their important programs.