



new hampshire

WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

The New Hampshire Women's Foundation invests in equality and opportunity for New Hampshire women and girls through research, education, advocacy, and grantmaking.

To: Chairwoman Carson and the Members of the Senate Judiciary Committee

Re: Testimony in Support of House Bill 1609, relative to certain provisions of the fetal life protection act requiring an ultrasound examination

Date: April 12, 2022

Position: OUGHT TO PASS

We respectfully encourage the Committee to recommend this bill Ought to Pass because HB 1609 is a compassionate response to the rare but legitimate concerns and fears of women in complex situations.

Ultrasound Mandate Creates Culture of Shame and Stigma

The ultrasound mandate, when applied to people who would not medically need or personally want an ultrasound, sometimes very early on in a pregnancy, contributes to a culture of shaming women. We heard from many women and doctors who supported this clarification so women would not have to endure a transvaginal ultrasound when not medically necessary.

Particularly Cruel Without Fatal Fetal Anomaly Exception

We have heard tragic stories of women who have had to make the choice to end a wanted pregnancy after the news of a fatal fetal diagnosis. It seems particularly cruel to force a woman to continue a pregnancy with that type of diagnosis.

Conclusion

We believe women and people who can become pregnant should have access to the full range of reproductive health care, in line with medical best practices. We believe women should be trusted to make the best decisions for themselves and their family when there are fatal complications late in pregnancy. We urge the Committee to recommend HB1609 Ought to Pass.