

The Hollis Democrats Mission is to work for good government in our town, state and country through voter education and activism. Our newsletter seeks to educate, inform and provide ways to participate in activities that improve our community.

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Hollis Democrats

HOLLIS, NEW HAMPSHIRE

EMAIL BLAST

HB 478 Prohibiting discrimination based on gender identity

According to theDailyBeast.com "New Hampshire's [HB 478](#), a bill with bipartisan sponsors that would ban discrimination based on gender identity is now "poised to stall," the [Concord Monitor](#) reported, after an anti-transgender email campaign targeted legislators with hundreds of messages." It is believed that many of the emails opposing HB 478 are coming from "out of state." [READ MORE HERE.](#)

House Bill 478, would prohibit discrimination based on gender identity in employment, housing and public accommodations such as movie theaters. At least 18 other states, including most in New England, already have similar anti-discrimination laws on the books.

To support the passage of HB 478 please contact your representatives.

In particular, please contact **Jim Belanger**. He says his emails and contacts have been 50/50 on the issue, so he is planning to support tabling the motion.

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Testimony in Support of HB 478



The links on the titles below will take you to YouTube videos of these different groups testifying in favor of HB 478.

[NH Chiefs of Police Association Endorses HB 478](#)

Dover Police Chief Anthony Colarusso testifies on behalf of the NH Chiefs of Police Association in support of [#TransBillNH](#), saying it will increase public safety (not decrease it) and pointing to the 18 states and 200+ cities that have passed and implemented similar laws successfully.

[Lead Pediatric Endocrinologist Testifies in Support of HB 478](#)

"All of my transgender patients are distressed by the fact that their body does not match their true gender. This leads to high level of anxiety and depression. My patients' anxiety and depression is compounded by the discrimination they face at school and beyond. Many of my patients have been victims of bullying, both physical and verbal. Disturbingly, forty percent of transgender individuals attempt suicide." -Nancy Charest, Head of Pediatric Endocrinology at Children's Hospital at Dartmouth Hitchcock

[Former Republican Rep. Eric Eastman: I wholeheartedly support HB 478](#)

Eastman said his support for non-discrimination protections for transgender people is rooted in his values of individual liberty: "As an ardently liberty-oriented and self styled "conservatarian" one of the first questions I ask myself when reviewing and evaluating legislative proposals is the following: Does this proposal enhance or reinforce individual rights? I believe that on balance HB 478 does that."

[The Business and Industry Association \(BIA\) Endorses HB 478](#)

After talking to transgender people about why they need non-discrimination protections, and hearing from employers about the incredible value add of their transgender employees the NH BIA is proud to endorse [#TransBillNH](#) (HB 478). Senior VP of Public Policy Dave Juvet says transgender-inclusive non-discrimination protections will make New Hampshire a more competitive player in the global market: "We can be the opposite of what happens in North Carolina."

[The NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence Endorses HB 478](#)

Transgender people are disproportionately victims of harassment and assault. Here, Jessica Eskeland of the NHCADSV testifies in support of [#TransBillNH](#) because it would "provide advocates the tools they need to adequately respond to the needs of victims" and help remove barriers to finding housing and employment for transgender people, especially those seeking to leave abusive and threatening relationships.