

RELEASE: Governor Vetoes Pivotal Legislation for Transgender and Gender Variant Community



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Fri 7/19, 5:29 PM

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New Hampshire House of Representatives
Concord, New Hampshire
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PRESS RELEASE

July 19, 2019

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GOVERNOR VETOES PIVOTAL LEGISLATION FOR TRANSGENDER AND GENDER VARIANT COMMUNITY

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – Today, Governor Sununu vetoed [HB 446](#), initiating amendments and corrections to birth records. **Representative Gerri Cannon (D- Somersworth)**, prime sponsor of the legislation, released the following statement:

“Updating one’s birth certificate information is extremely important for transgender and gender variant people so that they can legally identify themselves for Real IDs, passports and for other security purposes. “

“HB 446 was written with the assistance of the NH Vital Records Office and the Nashua City Clerk’s office to make it easier for Applicants, the Clerk’s offices and the Vital Records Office to process birth record changes for transgender men, women and people who don’t identify as either gender (more commonly known as non-binary people). This process is consistent with many U.S. States and countries around the world.”

“For many years NH has had a statute on the books (Section 5-C:87 V) that allows transgender people to submit a Court Ordered Gender Change to Town or City Clerks to have their birth records updated to reflect the gender they identify as. However, a process to implement these requests was never put in place and as a result, very few people have been able to get their gender information updated.”

“Under this new law, applicants would be required to submit a notarized form from their medical care professionals that states that the named individual is currently or was previously under the signing health

care provider's care, and that in the health care provider's professional opinion the individual's gender is (1) male, (2) female, or (3) neither male nor female, and can be reasonably expected to continue as such for the foreseeable future. If, in the future, an applicant were to decide that their document change was in error, a court order would be required for any future changes.”

“This law has been needed for many years to help transgender and gender variant people live a more normal life in our community. I am deeply disappointed that the Governor has chosen to disregard the transgender and gender variant community with his veto today, showing his true lack of understanding the incredible challenges this community faces. This legislation would have affirmed to the transgender and gender variant community, our neighbors, friends, family, and co-workers, that New Hampshire legally values and affirms their true identity. This veto is an incredible loss for transgender and gender variant people across the state.”

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