



15 March, 2012

To: The New Hampshire State House of Representatives and Senate
From: The Graduate Student Senate of the University of New Hampshire
Re: Opposition to HB 1264

Dear Representatives and Senators,

The University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate represents approximately 2300 full-time and part-time graduate students. Our membership is concerned about the House Minority Committee's recent endorsement of *HB 1264: an act establishing a religious exemption for individuals who do not wish to provide accommodations, goods, or services for marriages.*

The UNH Graduate Student body is committed to ensuring that all students, faculty and staff are treated equally. We are concerned that this bill would not comply with federal law and would amount to state-supported discrimination of many groups of individuals.

As detailed in the attached UNH Graduate Student Senate resolution, we encourage the Legislature to deny passage of HB 1264 and to oppose any future legislation that would legalize discrimination.

Sincerely,

The UNH Graduate Student Senate

Bob Swarthout, President

Daniel Budak, Vice President

John McClain, Treasurer

Ian Cohen, USNH Board of Trustees Representative

Emily Klein, Programs Coordinator

Michael Staley, Clerk

UNH Graduate Student Senate

124 Memorial Union Building Durham, New Hampshire 03824-3594

Website: www.unh.edu/gss E-mail: Grad.Student.Senate@unh.edu

University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate

Resolution 2012:4

March 6, 2012

Opposition to NH HB 1264 and state-sanctioned discrimination

WHEREAS, on November 18, 2011, New Hampshire Representatives Bergevin, Duarte and Sapareto have proposed NH HB 1264: AN ACT establishing a religious exemption for individuals who do not wish to provide accommodations, goods, or services for marriages, and

WHEREAS, on February 22, 2012, the NH House Minority Committee recommended the bill as “Ought to pass,” and

WHEREAS, this bill would result in state-sanctioned discrimination of people based on their race, religion, gender, ethnic background, sexual orientation or any other characteristic judged by a vendor to violate their sense of propriety, and

WHEREAS, discrimination of this nature is illegal, and has been historically shown to be detrimental to society, and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate is committed to making the University of New Hampshire and the surrounding community a welcoming and inclusive place for people of all diverse backgrounds, and

BE IT RESOLVED, that the Graduate Student Senate encourages the New Hampshire House of Representatives to reject HB 1264 in order to make New Hampshire an inviting place for all people to live, work and learn.

Graduate Student Senate

124 Memorial Union Building Durham, New Hampshire 03824-3594
Website: www.unh.edu/gss E-mail: Grad.Student.Senate@unh.edu