



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. The Graduate Student Senate unanimously passed the attached resolution opposing HB 437: an act relative to the definition of marriage. Graduate students at UNH are committed to creating a learning environment in which all students, faculty, and staff are treated equally. New Hampshire law regarding marriage currently promotes this nature of equality by ensuring that all couples have access to marriage. It is also clear that the majority of New Hampshire citizens agree that same-sex marriage ought to remain legal (WMUR/UNH Granite State Poll, 7 February 2012). Therefore, we urge you to reject HB 437, which would discourage people from coming to New Hampshire to live, work and study. As the passage of this resolution clearly demonstrates, civil equality—in this case, access to marriage—is highly valued by members of the UNH community.

We urge you to reject HB 437 and to continue to promote equality for all people, regardless of their sexual orientation, in the State of New Hampshire.

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

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University of New Hampshire Graduate Student Senate
Resolution 2012:5
March 6, 2012

Opposition to NH HB 437 and any other legislation to repeal equal access to marriage for same-sex couples in New Hampshire

WHEREAS, same-sex couples in New Hampshire presently have the ability to marry, and

WHEREAS, marriage is considered a fundamental right, and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate promotes equal access to marriage for all people, and

WHEREAS, the Graduate Student Senate promotes inclusion of all people and promotes an environment that is free from discrimination, and

WHEREAS a repeal of same-sex marriage rights constitutes state-sponsored discrimination against a minority group, and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the State to ensure protection of the rights of the minority, including same-sex couples, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate encourages the New Hampshire State Legislature to reject HB 437, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Graduate Student Senate supports current New Hampshire law, which allows same-sex marriage and opposes any effort to repeal equal access to marriage for same-sex couples in New Hampshire in order to keep New Hampshire an inviting place for all people to live, work, and learn.