



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

CHRISTOPHER T. SUNUNU
Governor

January 18, 2022

Dear Members of the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee:

I write to express my strong support for House Bill 1609, an act relative to the scope of the fetal protection act. This commonsense piece of legislation makes necessary improvements to a recently passed provision contained in the state budget.

One of the downsides of every budget process is that ultimately non-budgetary provisions are included in the version that makes its way to the Governor's desk. Our most recent budget was no exception, but to be fair it has happened with most every budget since the dawn of time.

Like most Granite Staters, I don't live in extremes on either side of the issue that is being considered today. I am pro-choice, but also like most Granite Staters — and Americans — I support a limit on abortions performed in months 7, 8, and 9 of pregnancy.

The change to our laws contained in the state budget brought New Hampshire in line with 43 other states. And although I knew we would have to come back and make necessary changes, I chose not to veto a 13 billion dollar budget and shut down government over it. Doing so would have caused Washington style gridlock right here in New Hampshire, and I was not going to allow that to happen.

House Bill 1609 is our opportunity to make those necessary changes. The sponsors have done important work that is critical to ensuring New Hampshire's reforms remain consistent and comparable to the 43 states who have similar laws on the books, including our neighbors to the south in Massachusetts.

Importantly:

- HB 1609 makes an exception for cases of sexual assault, rape, and incest
- HB 1609 makes an exception for fetal anomalies incompatible with life
- HB 1609 make an exception for health or life of the mother
- HB 1609 removes the ultrasound requirement

These measures are not extreme by any stretch of the imagination. These are all or in part consistent with many other states around the nation. We must ensure

that access to services remain safe and accessible in the Granite State during what is a rare but extremely difficult and stressful time for a woman and her family.

Please join me in supporting HB 1609.

Sincerely,



Christopher T. Sununu
Governor