



RE: HB 1280 – relative to relative to informed consent and patient rights.

The DD Council is a federally funded agency that is dedicated to the pursuit of dignity and justice, authentic community inclusion, cultural competency, and self-determination for all New Hampshire residents with developmental disabilities. The DD Council carries out its mission through education, advocacy, and collaboration on initiatives that encourage full integration and inclusion of individuals with developmental disabilities as required in the Developmental Disabilities and Bill of Rights Act, 2000.

Our Council, by law is comprised of at least 60% people with developmental disabilities and parents or guardians of people with developmental disabilities. These members are volunteers advocating for disability justice. This involves advocating for public policies and initiatives that remove barriers and create opportunities in all areas of life for people with disabilities, including improving access to information in alternative formats. We believe that:

- It is imperative that decisions involving informed consent take into consideration and individual's capacity to understand the implication of treatment decisions.
- Physicians need to provide information in accessible formats and person-centered ways to ensure that the consequences of a particular treatment, or the withholding of that treatment is understood by the individual and surrogates or supporters the individual has for making informed medical choices.
- “Courtesy, respect, dignity, and timely, responsive attention to his or her needs” should be the standard practice for any medical or healthcare professional.
- Continuity of treatment and transition planning for treatment and ongoing care needs, is of the utmost importance for serving vulnerable populations.