



RE: HB 1615 – relative to the autism registry

At the NHCDD, we are 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 autism registry is a tool that provides important information to help those who maintain the healthcare services system to have a data driven understanding of how to insure early and proper identification leading to better outcomes for people with ASD, and to understand patterns in assessment.

As our understanding of autism spectrum disorder has evolved and we have identified that it is best practice to approach ASD from a social model and not a medical model, we believe that it is a benefit to adapt the language in the RSA to reflect that.

It will also provide an opportunity for parents to opt out of the registry if desired. This adaptation comes from requests from parents.

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. We thank our legislators for their service to our community and for taking our testimony into consideration.