



CITY OF MANCHESTER

Joyce Craig
Mayor

February 9, 2021

Chairman Edward Gordon
NH House Judiciary Committee
LOB Room 208
33 N. State Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 430

Dear Chairman Gordon and Members of the Committee,

Coming before your committee today is HB430, repealing the prohibition on entering or remaining on a public way or sidewalk adjacent to a reproductive health care facility. I urge the House Finance Committee recommend this bill as “Inexpedient to Legislate” to the full House.

Manchester is home to one of New Hampshire’s five Planned Parenthood Health Centers. Planned Parenthood provides high quality, affordable health care to the residents of Manchester and the surrounding communities. The Health Center has a great relationship with the City and with our Police Department’s community policing division.

New Hampshire’s buffer zone law, which passed with bipartisan support in 2014, protects the patients at health centers while also protecting First Amendment rights. The Planned Parenthood here in Manchester underwent recent renovations, and while they are not currently utilizing this buffer zone law, it is a necessary tool moving forward to ensure that patient, providers, and volunteers have a small area of separation for their privacy and safety.

New Hampshire’s current bi-partisan buffer zone law protects the privacy and safety of those utilizing services provided by Planned Parenthood, while also protecting resident’s First Amendment Rights, and I urge you to vote against repeal.

Sincerely,

Joyce Craig
Mayor