



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

MARGARET WOOD HASSAN
Governor

February 2, 2016

The Honorable Russell Prescott
Chairman, Senate Commerce Committee
Room 100, State House
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Commerce Committee:

I write in support of Senate Bill 488, relative to requiring reasonable accommodations for pregnant workers.

In New Hampshire, we understand that we are at our strongest when we include the talent, ideas and energy of all of our people. Senate Bill 488 builds on that tradition and helps ensure that we treat all citizens with dignity and respect, providing important protections for pregnant women and new mothers in the workplace. These protections against discrimination are critical to the economic security and vitality of families, helping to ensure that pregnant workers and new mothers can continue supporting their families, and in turn, making significant contributions to our economy.

Research shows that whether in the public or private sector, better decisions are made when both men and women are at the table together because a wider range of experiences and perspectives can be shared, and Senate Bill 488 sends an important message that New Hampshire is a welcoming state where the contributions of all workers are valued. It helps ensure a positive and encouraging atmosphere for pregnant workers and new mothers that will not only strengthen their personal and professional futures, but will also help boost our economy and maintain New Hampshire's reputation as a great place to live, work and raise a family.

Thank you for your consideration.

With every good wish,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margie H" followed by a long horizontal line.

Margaret Wood Hassan
Governor