



**Joseph D. Kenney**  
**District One**

**State of New Hampshire**  
**Executive Council**

**John Stephen**  
**District Four**

**The Honorable Gordon J. MacDonald, Chief Justice, Supreme Court**  
**The Honorable Ellen V. Christo, Administrative Judge, Judicial System**  
New Hampshire Circuit Court  
One Charles Doe Drive  
Concord, NH 03301

**July 14, 2025**

Dear Judge Christo and Chief Justice MacDonald:

We write to you today deeply troubled by the recent tragic events in Berlin, New Hampshire, involving the murder-suicide of Marisol Fuentes by Michael Gleason Jr. This heartbreaking incident has shaken our communities and underscored critical concerns regarding our bail system and the decisions that impact public safety.

First, we extend our sincere gratitude for your prompt actions in forming investigations into the circumstances surrounding the bail decision in this case. The internal review initiated by the Judicial Branch is a vital step toward ensuring accountability and preventing future tragedies. Your leadership in addressing this matter demonstrates a commitment to justice and the protection of our citizens, and we commend you for these efforts.

However, in light of the facts that have emerged—particularly the decision by Magistrate Stephanie Johnson to release Mr. Gleason on \$5,000 cash bail in April despite serious felony charges of kidnapping and sexual assault—we must demand immediate and decisive action.

The release of this individual, who subsequently committed such a heinous act, represents a profound failure in our system that endangered lives and eroded public trust in the judiciary. This is not an isolated incident; in February, Magistrate Johnson faced significant criticism for granting personal recognizance bail to Timothy Bisson, who was accused of stabbing a stranger. The communities we represent, the North Country and the Greater Manchester area, have lost faith in Magistrate Johnson to effectuate bail proceedings and to keep our communities safe and demand action.

Pursuant to Supreme Court Administrative Order 2024-03, which empowers the Chief Justice to remove a magistrate for cause at any time during their five-year term, we urge you to exercise this authority without delay and remove Magistrate Johnson from her position. This step is essential not only to hold accountable those whose judgments have led to preventable loss but also to restore confidence in our bail processes. We stand ready to support any necessary reforms to strengthen our system and prioritize victim safety.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter. We look forward to your response and are available to discuss further at your earliest convenience.

Sincerely,

Joseph D. Kenney  
Executive Councilor, District One  
State of New Hampshire

John Stephen  
Executive Councilor, District Four  
State of New Hampshire