



# NEW HAMPSHIRE WOMEN'S FOUNDATION

## Media Release

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### **Former Speaker of the NH House, Terie Norelli Appointed President and CEO of the New Hampshire Women's Foundation**

**February 12, 2015 Concord, NH**-The New Hampshire Women's Foundation announced the appointment of Terie Norelli, former Speaker of the NH House of Representatives, as the organization's new President and CEO. Norelli, who served as New Hampshire's first female Democratic Speaker of the House for three terms from 2007-2014, started her new role today with the Concord-based organization.

The President and CEO position for the Women's Foundation was created in late 2014 when the Women's Fund of NH and the NH Women's Initiative joined forces to create a single, unified organization. The Women's Foundation's mission is to promote opportunity and equality for women and girls in New Hampshire through research, education, philanthropy, and advocacy.

Norelli has an extensive history of commitment to advocacy for women and girls not only in New Hampshire, but also across the United States and around the globe. In 1995, she attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China and helped to organize follow-up events in New Hampshire in 1996 and 2000.

According to Mary Johanna Brown, Board Chair of the Women's Foundation, "Terie's lifelong commitment to advancing gender equality makes her the ideal leader for our organization as we focus on an agenda of economic security, leadership, work/life balance, health and wellness, and at-risk girls and women."

As the only statewide foundation dedicated to the topic of gender equality, the Women's Foundation reached out to leaders across NH during their executive search process. The Search Committee included Board members of the Women's Foundation, as well as prominent NH leaders, Betsy Gardella, President and CEO of NH Public Radio and Joe Keefe, President and CEO of Pax World Funds. Keefe is also Co-Chair of the Leadership Group for the Women's Empowerment Principles, a joint program of the United Nations Global Compact and UN Women.

Commenting on Norelli's appointment Keefe said, "Terie knows New Hampshire inside and out, and has been a strong advocate for women's issues throughout her career. We feel that she brings the perfect blend of experience, savvy, credibility, and passion that New Hampshire needs right now as we focus more on the needs of women and girls."

Gardella added, "We wanted a leader who would raise the visibility of the issues that matter to women and girls, inspire existing supporters, and bring new audiences to the Women's Foundation's work. Terie is the leader that we hoped to attract. We are excited and fortunate to have her at the helm as we start this new journey."

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Norelli's connection to the Granite State goes back to her studies at the University of New Hampshire where she was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to her run for the legislature, Norelli was a high school mathematics educator at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, New Hampshire.

For more information about the NH Women's Foundation visit: [www.nhwomensfoundation.org](http://www.nhwomensfoundation.org). The organization can also be found on Facebook ([facebook.com/nhwomensfoundation](https://facebook.com/nhwomensfoundation)) and Twitter (@NHWomensFndn).

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Photo: Terie Norelli, President and CEO, NH Women's Foundation  
Courtesy: Pernold Young Photography



High resolution photo is available via the NH Women's Foundation.  
Please call or email Ellen Koenig at 603-226-3355, [ekoenig@nhwomensfoundation.org](mailto:ekoenig@nhwomensfoundation.org)

### **About the New Hampshire Women's Foundation**

With nearly 100 years of shared history of advocating for women and girls, the New Hampshire Women's Foundation was established in late 2014 as a result of a merger between the Women's Fund of New Hampshire and the New Hampshire Women's Initiative.

The organization continues a commitment of advocacy for women and girls and the advancement of gender equality in the Granite State that was established over the last century by the Women's Fund of NH, the NH Women's Initiative, the Commission on the Status of Women, the Women's Lobby and Alliance, and the Women's Policy Institute.

The mission of the NH Women's Foundation is to promote opportunity and equality for women and girls in NH through research, education, philanthropy, and advocacy. To learn more about the organization, visit [www.nhwomensfoundation.org](http://www.nhwomensfoundation.org).

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## **Biography for Terie Norelli**

Terie Norelli is the President and CEO of the New Hampshire Women's Foundation. In this role, she is responsible for leading and managing all aspects of the Women's Foundation, a nonprofit, 501c3 organization.

Most recently, Norelli served as the Speaker of the New Hampshire House of Representatives for three terms between 2007-2014. She was the first Democratic woman to hold this leadership position.

A graduate of the University of New Hampshire, she was awarded her Bachelor of Science degree in Mathematics Education summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa. Prior to her run for the Legislature, Norelli was a high school mathematics educator at Winnacunnet High School in Hampton, New Hampshire.

Norelli has long been committed to advocacy for women and girls. She served as chair of both the Sexual Assault Support Services Board of Directors and NARAL-NH PAC Board of Directors. She also served on the NARAL-NH Board and the advisory board of the Portsmouth Feminist Health Center. She attended the Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing, China, in 1995, and helped to organize follow-up conferences in New Hampshire in 1996 and 2000 that included a focus on violence against women.

She is the recipient of several state and national awards for her work in the Legislature, including the Rainbow Award for Legislative Leader for Statewide LGBT Equality from the Human Rights Commission, and the Champion of Choice Award from NARAL-NH.

Norelli was also named Legislator of the Year by the NH Women's Lobby, and the National Association of Social Workers. She has also received the Public Service Award from the Bi-State Primary Care Association, the Friend of Education Award from NEA-NH, the Legislator of the Year Award from the New England Police Benevolent Association, the Legislator of the Year by the New Hampshire Health Care Association, and a leadership award from the New Hampshire State Grange. She was presented with the Porch Light Award, by A Safe Place and Sexual Assault Support Services (SASS).

During Hillary Clinton's 2008 presidential run, Norelli served as Clinton's New Hampshire co-chair and was a delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 2008 and 2012. She was also president of the National Conference of State Legislatures, a non-partisan organization of all state legislators and legislative staff. Additionally, she served on the Board of the State Legislative Leaders Foundation.

Norelli is featured in two books about women in politics: "Pearls, Politics, and Power: How Women Can Win and Lead" by Former Vermont Governor Madeleine Kunin, and "Women at the Table: 40 Intimate Profiles of Political Women in the Northeast" by Michaeline Della Fera. She is also included in "Legendary Locals of Portsmouth" by Charles McMahon.

Norelli lives in Portsmouth with her husband, Allen, and has two adult children, daughter, Gina, and son, Daniel who live on the Seacoast.