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Hon. Gregory Hill, Chairman  
NH House Legislative Administration Committee  
Legislative Office Building  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: HB 314 (prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities)

Dear Chairman Hill:

I am here in SUPPORT to House Bill 314 prohibiting the use of federal, state, or local funds for lobbying activities. Plainly stated, this bill removes the use of taxpayers' money used by special interest groups to lobby our legislature for what may or may not be in the best interests of the taxpayers. It does not restrict the self-funding of these lobbying groups by their members; only the forced payment by taxpayers.

In a nutshell, House Bill 314:

- No public funds may be used for the purposes of lobbying the General Court;
- Any entity (not a person) who receives public funds but wishes to lobby the General Court must register and obtain an Orange Badge, to denote that they are a lobbyist;
- Any citizen who discovers that an entity is using public funds to lobby the General Court may file a private right of action to enforce this law;
- It makes it a Class A misdemeanor for someone to authorize the use of public funds for the lobbying interests not necessarily in the taxpayers' benefit;
- It makes it grounds for termination from their government job; and finally
- It does NOT restrict those entities from providing information to the General Court which is not intended to lobby regarding legislation or candidates.

Also, in a separate nutshell, House Bill 314 **will not**:

- Criminalize free speech of public employees;
- Broadly prohibit a large number of individuals from engaging in the legislative process (only its funding source which are currently the taxpayers);
- Increase taxpayer costs (when it actually lowers taxpayers' cost for someone else's lobbying efforts);
- Undermine local control (it doesn't affect local control at all);

- Contradict New Hampshire’s core values (in fact, it strengthens New Hampshire’s core values by eliminating taxpayers’ funding of government employee interests which may or may not be in the taxpayers’ best interests).

To be sure, if House Bill 314 is passed, several other laws will need to be examined. For instance, RSA § 31:8 requires **by law** that “each town and city shall pay annually” the sum not to exceed \$20 for every member of three town and city lobbying groups, from the taxpayers’ pockets. This will also need to be changed in an amendment, and any other such statutes which **codify the theft of taxpayers’ funds for the private lobbying efforts of others.**

Please pass House Bill 314 so that those who are members of private lobbying organization pay-their-own-way and taxpayers do not.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

**Please vote to OTP HB 314.**

Respectfully,

/s/ Robert T. Bevill, J.D., LL.M.  
Justice of the Peace, Hillsborough County