

Dear Representative,

Perhaps I am misunderstanding this bill, its intent seems at best redundant, and at worst, seeking to censor free expression. RSA 15:5 already does what this bill purports to accomplish. It prohibits "use [of] state funds to lobby or attempt to influence legislation, participate in political activity, or contribute funds to any entity engaged in these activities."

What then is the purpose of HB 314? If its concerns are already legislated then it appears this bill seeks to stymie free expression through intimidation either by fines or the threat of dismissal.

One wonders, what is the intent of this bill that does not already exist in statute? Might it be to dissuade public officials from commenting on a bill where their opinion/expertise is needed, but does not fit the political opinions of others?

If I have misunderstood the goal of this bill, I welcome your reply. Otherwise, please oppose HB 314

Regards,

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