



January 16, 2026

Chair Pauer
House Municipal and County Government Committee
House Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1659

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Krysten Evans and I am the Director of Policy for ABLE NH. ABLE is a disability justice organization and we fight for the civil and human rights of people with disabilities in NH. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 1659.

HB 1659 creates a new homestead property tax credit for permanently disabled veterans, including those who have had to modify their homes due to service-connected disabilities. From a disability justice lens, this bill recognizes a critical truth: disability often brings long-term financial strain, and our policies must respond to that reality with fairness and compassion.

Many permanently disabled veterans live on fixed incomes while facing increased costs related to accessibility, home modifications, medical care, and daily living supports. Ramps, widened doorways, accessible bathrooms, and other necessary home modifications are not luxuries, they are essential for safety and independence. Yet these modifications often increase property values and, in turn, property taxes, creating an unintended financial penalty for disabled individuals simply trying to remain in their homes.

HB 1659 helps correct that inequity. By allowing municipalities to offer a property tax credit equal to the full amount of property taxes levied on a qualifying homestead, this bill promotes housing stability and recognizes the lifelong impact of service-connected disability. Extending this benefit to surviving spouses and dependent children also acknowledges that disability and its economic consequences do not end with the individual alone.

Importantly, this bill maintains appropriate safeguards by ensuring that individuals receiving this credit are not simultaneously claiming other veteran property tax exemptions, while also protecting sensitive personal information from public disclosure. These provisions reflect thoughtful policymaking that balances fiscal responsibility with dignity and privacy.

At its core, HB 1659 is about more than taxes. It is about honoring service, supporting independence, and ensuring that permanently disabled veterans can remain safely housed in their communities without being financially punished for their disabilities.

I urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on House Bill 1659. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten M. Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krysten M. Evans
Director of Policy
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