

Andrew Horn Testimony - Support

HB 1609-FN

AN ACT limiting the use of state, county, and municipal funds and property for construction and operation of certain immigrant detention facilities.

“Granite does not bend to tyranny.”

Ms. Chairwoman, committee members—we're here today for something that really matters.

This week in Minneapolis, an Autistic woman was driving to a doctor's appointment when ICE agents surrounded her car. They smashed her windows, cut her seatbelt, and dragged her out while she screamed, "I'm disabled, I'm trying to go to the doctor." She wasn't a protester or a threat—just a woman trying to get medical care.

This is fascism, not law enforcement.

Historian Timothy Snyder warned: "Be wary of paramilitaries. ... When the pro-leader paramilitary and the official police and military intermingle, the end has come."

Well, the end has come—we must face it with courage. If we don't practice courage now, we won't be able to reconstruct our system of rights and laws—we will never turn the tide.

We're in a storm we didn't create, but we must steer the ship. In Minneapolis, masked ICE agents used military weapons on civilians and tear gas on bystanders. This follows history's pattern: Gestapo targeted disabled people, Mussolini merged state and private violence, Franco crushed local control. Now Washington uses contractors and ICE to terrorize communities.

Will New Hampshire fund this? Can we love freedom while funding ICE prisons?

HB 1609 says no: no state money for facilities, no county land for cages, no town subsidies for prison profiteers.

Some warn of lost federal dollars. I say: let that blood money go. Better to get sued than explain to our children we funded concentration camps.

Our founders built this country on freedom—this bill protects it. New Hampshire refused the Fugitive Slave Act and rejected cooperation with a tyrannical federal system. Today, we face the same choice.

As an Autistic man, I saw myself in that Minneapolis woman. I saw a system that decides disabled, immigrant, and dissenting lives are disposable. We must choose right over easy.

I see this in my own life: National Guard patrolling my DC hometown, the malignancy spreading. I wait for the day ICE smashes my window. The future is dark, but we can refuse to assist in this federal lawlessness.

Timothy Snyder warns: "Be as courageous as you can. If none of us is prepared to die for freedom, then all of us will die under tyranny."

This bill is our courage. It says New Hampshire won't finance fascism. Our vote today reaches every scared child and targeted family. Let's choose hope over fear.

Vote Ought to Pass on HB 1609. When history asks where we stood, let it show we stood with that Minneapolis woman—and with freedom.

Granite does not bend to tyranny.