



January 20, 2026

Chairman Berry  
House Election Law Committee  
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1678

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 1678.

HB 1678 addresses a fundamental truth. The right to vote is meaningless if the systems required to exercise that right are inaccessible. For many people with disabilities, voter registration remains one of the most significant barriers to civic participation. This bill directly confronts that barrier by allowing voters to register directly with the Secretary of State beginning in 2026 and by requiring the creation of a secure online voter registration portal.

People with disabilities are consistently less likely to vote than people without disabilities, not because of apathy, but because of structural obstacles. According to data from the U.S. Election Assistance Commission, voters with disabilities are more likely to experience difficulty voting, and those difficulties often arise before Election Day, including during voter registration and access to election information (U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Disability and Voter Turnout in U.S. Elections). When the process of registering requires in person visits, rigid hours, physical paperwork, transportation, or third party assistance, disabled voters are disproportionately excluded.

An online voter registration portal is not a matter of convenience for people with disabilities. It is a matter of access and independence. Properly designed online systems allow voters to register using screen readers, voice recognition software, alternative input devices, and other assistive technologies (U.S. Election Assistance Commission, Best Practices for Accessible Voter Registration).

They allow people with chronic illness, mobility disabilities, fatigue, pain, or caregiving responsibilities to participate on equal footing. Independence, privacy, and dignity are core requirements of democracy.

HB 1678 is grounded in civil rights law. Title II of the Americans with Disabilities Act requires state and local governments to ensure that people with disabilities have equal access to public programs and services, including digital services offered by the state (U.S. Department of Justice, Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Technical Assistance Manual). As more civic functions move online, accessibility is a current legal and moral obligation.

HB 1678 recognizes the importance of thoughtful implementation. Accessibility must be built into the system from the start. This includes compatibility with assistive technology, plain language instructions, mobile access, and clear alternatives for voters who cannot use the portal. When accessibility is designed at the outset, systems are more effective, more trustworthy, and more inclusive.

People with disabilities are not asking for special treatment. We are asking for equal access to one of the most basic rights in a democracy. HB 1678 moves New Hampshire closer to an election system where disabled voters can participate fully, independently, and with dignity.

I urge the committee to vote Ought to Pass on HB 1678.

Respectfully submitted,



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Sources:

U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Disability and Voter Turnout in U.S. Elections.

U.S. Election Assistance Commission. Best Practices for Accessible Voter Registration.

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division. Americans with Disabilities Act Title II Technical Assistance Manual.

National Conference of State Legislatures. Online Voter Registration.