Testimony in Support of HB 1114

Sarah Gentile

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Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB 1114.

This bill requires the preservation of public comments submitted on legislation, including those received through in-person hearings and the state's remote sign in system. It also requires standing committees to prepare reports explaining how those public comments influenced their recommendations, with those reports retained as part of the permanent legislative record.

As taxpayers and constituents, this record retention and transparency matters.

Not everyone can travel to Concord, take time off work, arrange childcare, or sit through hours of testimony to speak in person. For many Granite Staters, written testimony submitted remotely is the only realistic way to participate in our state's legislative process. Their voices, positions, and lived experiences are important whether they are giving testimony in person or online.

HB 1114 makes public participation meaningful instead of symbolic. Preserving written testimony affirms that public input is part of the record, not something that can be overlooked or discarded. Requiring committees to explain how public comments were considered strengthens trust in the process and helps constituents understand how decisions are made in a transparent manner.

This bill does not change policy outcomes or restrict legislative authority. It simply improves accountability, transparency, and public confidence in government at a time when it is most needed. It acknowledges that civic engagement should not depend on geography, work schedules, family demands, health, or financial ability.

HB 1114 supports a more accessible and respectful legislative process, one that values all constituent voices equally.

For these reasons, I urge the committee to support HB 1114.

Thank you,

Sarah Gentile