



January 22, 2026

Chairman Greg Hill
House Legislative Administration Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1114

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, a statewide disability justice organization that works to protect and expand the civil and human rights of people with disabilities across New Hampshire. I am here today in strong support of House Bill 1114.

House Bill 1114 asks the legislature to do something both simple and profound: to honor the public's participation by preserving it, acknowledging it, and explaining how it was weighed in the decision making process.

For people with disabilities, this bill is not about paperwork. It is about power, access, and whether participation in our democracy is real or merely performative.

People with disabilities are routinely excluded from in person hearings due to physical barriers, transportation limitations, chronic illness, sensory needs, and caregiving responsibilities. Written testimony and remote sign in systems are not conveniences for our community. They are often the only way to engage. When those submissions are not preserved or meaningfully acknowledged, disabled people are effectively erased from the legislative record.

HB 1114 draws a clear line in the sand. It says that if the public is invited to participate, their participation must matter.

This bill does not tell committees how to vote. It does not constrain legislative judgment. What it does is require transparency and accountability. It asks committees to explain how public comments informed their recommendations, or why they did not. That is not an unreasonable request. It is the bare minimum of a functioning democracy.

Too often, people submit testimony repeatedly on the same issues year after year, sharing lived experience, expertise, and impact, only to walk away with no understanding of whether their voices were heard at all. That silence breeds distrust, disengagement, and cynicism. HB 1114 restores trust by making the process visible.

For legislators, this bill strengthens the institution itself. Preserved public comment creates a permanent record, provides critical context for future sessions, and documents the real world impact of policy choices. It improves governance by grounding decisions in the lived realities of the people most affected.

New Hampshire proudly claims to have the most accessible legislature in the country. Accessibility, however, cannot stop at the door of the hearing room or the submission of written testimony. Accessibility without accountability is hollow. Participation without acknowledgement is meaningless.

House Bill 1114 affirms that public input is not a formality to be checked off, but a core component of democratic governance.

On behalf of ABLE NH and the thousands of people with disabilities and families we represent, I strongly urge the committee to support House Bill 1114.

Thank you for your time, your consideration, and your commitment to a legislature that listens.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krysten M. Evans".

Krysten M. Evans
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