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Legislative Youth Advisory Council

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Dear Chairman Hill and Members of the Committee, in an era where young people are constantly exposed to different news or media outlets about their government, the Legislative Youth Advisory Council is the perfect opportunity for young people, like me, who want to strengthen the youth voice in their state legislature. HB1692 will not only expand the program to more willing students, possibly giving said students more experience for their future careers. But it will also speed up the selection process, and educate more students about issues in their own local government.

I applied for the Legislative Youth Advisory Council because I want to be involved in government when I am older, and this bill would expand that dream for many others like me who wish to get involved with government early. The bill broadens the opportunities to New Hampshire students with an improved application process and by adding more members, allowing for a more accurate representation of the state's youth and their different views, experiences, and backgrounds.

Giving more students a seat on the council gives that many more voices to debate the legislature that it will affect the most by changes or improvements in education, science, technology, labor, and mental health resources. When young people are consulted, it gives lawmakers a set of fresh eyes and first-hand experiences that can lead to fewer assumptions and better informed decisions.

Lastly, democracies like ours especially thrive when a diverse group of members work together in our government bodies; it's how we got our Constitution. But for students who want to take charge of their own civic duty so early on in life shouldn't be limited to only one per county. Participation in the Legislative Youth Advisory Council provides invaluable real-world experiences in government that are essential to an evolving and growing democracy. Through this bill, the state of New Hampshire sends a message that it wants more young voices in and involved in its legislative process.

HB1692 is more than just an update for the Council; it is an investment in our leaders for tomorrow and expanding their horizons while improving the lives of the residents of New Hampshire. By expanding the Legislative Youth Advisory Council, clarifying the application process and its role, it empowers those young voices, strengthening our democracy and enhancing the leadership skills of the next generation.