

January 23, 2026

NH HB 1441

Online Testimony

Good afternoon Honorable Members of this Committee,

My name is Chris Rietmann, and I live in Alstead, NH. I am a small business owner and have been consistently involved with my town since moving here in 2013. I am vehemently anti-partisan. I put my trust not in governments, but in my neighbors.

I am in favor of this bill and urge the members of this committee to consider the testimony offered by the people, to debate, and return an "Ought to Pass" conclusion.

The political landscape has changed nationally in my lifetime, but not so much locally within this beautiful state. We still do things mostly locally, and having one of the largest legislatures in the world has helped keep us more in line with the New Hampshire Constitution than many other states. It has helped prevent any one branch of our state government becoming too powerful and has kept our legislature effective. The same cannot be said of the federal government.

Decade after decade, the national representatives felt that their personal political team needed more power to get their agenda done while they were in power; be it in cabinet branches populated predominantly by unelected bureaucrats, or to the Executive who now possesses power never conceived by the framers and founders of this country. Many of the warnings of a government that could grow too powerful and centralized were ignored to further goals political in nature, arguably with the best of intentions. Washington has passed from "too big to fail" to "too big to succeed".

Washington, DC forgot about the states and people it is supposed to protect, it is more concerned with protecting and enriching itself. I submit this statement as fact, not conjecture.

While the United States was a brilliant idea for the 13 colonies, it has failed to scale. What has suffered most was the idea that our government exists to protect the rights of the people.

The US began as an experiment in decentralized government, where most of the power still resided with the States and their people. People across the US are asking themselves if it worked; literally from “sea to shining sea”.

Is it time for New Hampshire’s state government to take a fresh look at Article 10 of the New Hampshire Constitution? I say, yes, as each of you have sworn an oath to not only uphold the US Constitution, but the New Hampshire Constitution. To ignore the core concepts of that New Hampshire Constitution you swore an oath to protect is not in anyone’s best interest. Would there be the same reticence by some if it were defending Article 5 if it were the right to worship your religion under fire?

Article 10 does not talk about rebellion; it recognizes the natural right of people to abolish or change or abolish its form of government through a revolution, exactly how the United States was formed in the first place. But we’re not there; this bill does not call for a Revolution, but to look at the issue that states across the US are discussing – are we better off as part of the United States than we would be governing ourselves? I believe it is time for New Hampshire to study that question carefully, which is what this bill asks for us to do.

Thoughtfully submitted,

Chris Rietmann
Alstead, New Hampshire