



January 27, 2026

Honorable Chairman Berry
NH House Election Law Committee
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1520

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in opposition to HB 1520. For the record my name is Krysten Evans, and I serve as 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.

This bill creates new barriers to voting under the false premise of election integrity. In reality, it erects unnecessary, costly, and harmful obstacles that will disproportionately disenfranchise people with disabilities, low-income residents, older adults, students, and marginalized communities.

At its core, HB 1520 replaces access with suspicion. It treats eligible voters as potential threats rather than constituents deserving of trust, dignity, and participation in democracy.

By requiring proof of citizenship documents such as birth certificates or a newly created state-issued citizenship card, this bill imposes logistical and financial burdens that many Granite Staters simply cannot overcome. For people with disabilities, these burdens are not theoretical.

Many disabled adults do not have ready access to original birth certificates. Many cannot travel easily to government offices. Many rely on caregivers for transportation and administrative support. Many have limited income and cannot absorb the cost of obtaining replacement documents. And many face cognitive, sensory, or physical barriers that already make navigating bureaucratic systems exhausting and inaccessible. HB 1520 compounds those barriers.

For people with disabilities, voting already requires planning, coordination, transportation, accessible polling locations, and often personal assistance. Adding new documentation hurdles does not protect democracy. It restricts it.

This bill also imposes significant financial costs on the state, estimated at over \$2.5 million, largely to fund a public education campaign to explain the confusion

it creates. That money could be invested directly into improving ballot accessibility, strengthening voter outreach, expanding language access, or ensuring every polling place is fully accessible. Instead, it will be spent cleaning up the mess this bill creates, and for what problem?

There is no evidence of widespread voter fraud in New Hampshire. None. Our elections are secure. Our systems work. This legislation is a solution in search of a problem, and the cost of that solution will be paid by eligible voters who are pushed out of the democratic process.

When we restrict access to voting, we do not make democracy stronger. We make it smaller. We silence voices. We exclude lived experience. We weaken civic trust. And we send a chilling message to entire communities that their participation is conditional, fragile, and easily revoked.

ABLE NH works with people whose lives are shaped by public policy every single day. Voting is often one of the few tools available to assert autonomy, influence systems, and demand accountability. When that right is restricted, the consequences are profound and lasting. Voting is not a privilege. It is a constitutional right.

HB 1520 undermines that right by creating unnecessary, inequitable, and exclusionary barriers that will predictably suppress lawful participation. It is harmful. It is unjust. And it is incompatible with the values of equity, freedom, and community that New Hampshire claims to uphold.

We urge this committee to reject HB 1520 and stand on the side of accessible democracy. Protect the right to vote. Protect inclusion. Protect the voices of people with disabilities and marginalized communities across our state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten M. Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krysten M. Evans
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