



January 27, 2026

Honorable Chairman Berry
NH House Election Law Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1695

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1695. 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.

At its core, HB 1695 is about whether our democracy truly belongs to everyone.

Every election, New Hampshire voters are asked to weigh in on constitutional amendments that shape the future of our state. These questions are often written in dense legal language and abstract terms that even seasoned policymakers must read multiple times to fully understand. For many voters, especially people with disabilities, these ballots do not feel empowering. They feel alienating. They feel inaccessible, and too often, they feel impossible.

When voters cannot clearly understand what they are being asked to decide, democracy begins to fracture.

People with disabilities already encounter enormous barriers to participation. Physical inaccessibility. Transportation challenges. Inadequate accommodations. Inconsistent poll worker training. Widespread misinformation about who is allowed to vote. Add confusing ballot language to that list, and the result is predictable: frustration, exhaustion, disengagement, and in too many cases, silence.

That silence is not a choice. It is the product of systemic exclusion.

HB 1695 confronts that reality. It ensures that voters receive clear, accurate explanations of proposed constitutional amendments and the real consequences of their approval or rejection. By placing this information directly on the ballot or alongside it, the bill meets voters where they are, at the very moment their voices matter most.

This is not about convenience. It is about dignity.

It is about ensuring that every voter, regardless of disability, education level, or background, can cast a ballot with confidence and clarity. It is about protecting the integrity of consent in our democratic process. It is about rejecting the idea that complexity should function as a gatekeeper to civic participation.

When voters understand what is before them, trust in government grows. Civic engagement deepens. Disinformation loses its grip. Democracy strengthens.

New Hampshire has long prided itself on leadership in civic participation. HB 1695 honors that legacy by making our elections more transparent, more accessible, and more just.

We urge the committee to support House Bill 1695 and affirm the fundamental principle that democracy must be understandable to be legitimate.

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
Director of Policy
Krysten@ABLENH.org