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Honorable Chairman Terry Roy
House Criminal Justice Committee
1 Granite Place
Concord, New Hampshire 03301

January 28, 2026

Dear Chairman Roy and House Criminal Justice Committee Members,

My name is Kenneth Norton and I live in Tilton and I am writing in support of HB 1142. By way of background, I am a New Hampshire Licensed Independent Social Worker (LICSW) with over 40 years dedicated on mental wellness and suicide prevention. I have served as a subject matter expert on suicide prevention for the US Department of Defense, the Veteran's Administration, as well as the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). Over the course of 4 decades I participated in training NH Law Enforcement and First Responders including having served as Adjunct Faculty at Police Standards and Training. In 2022 I was appointed to serve on Governor Chris Sununu's Law Enforcement Accountability, Transparency and Community (LEACT) Commission.

This Commission focused on improving accountability, transparency and connection for our law enforcement. In the Governor's words "The state has an obligation to participate in the national conversation and engage in self-examination to identify any opportunities to improve the state of our law enforcement and the relationship between law enforcement and the communities they serve...." As we enter 2026, these local and national conversations have taken on new dimensions including the role, and accountability of -federal law enforcement in local communities.

It is my personal opinion that the use of masked, non-identifiable federal Law enforcement, who are often not working in collaboration with local law enforcement, erodes public trust in all law enforcement. It strikes me as ironic that the very people who so vociferously opposed use of masks during COVID now insist on its necessity as part of federal law enforcement operations. Masked officers blur the lines between local law enforcement, fderal law enforcement and impersonators. I support HB 1142 because it requires identifying information (e.g., name, badge number and deploying agency),, prohibits use of masks, and it is not a total ban; it is limited only to when NH Law Enforcement is participating in US Immigration enforcement.

Please vote HB 1142 as Ought to Pass. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth Norton". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kenneth" and the last name "Norton" clearly distinguishable.

Kenneth Norton

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