

# **Andrew Horn Testimony**

## **Support**

### **HB1316**

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Chair, committee members:

We're here today to protect basic American values: freedom, equality, and the right to live without unnecessary government intrusion. I'm here to ask you to imagine what could happen if those protections disappear. Without clear boundaries, state agencies could collect and share deeply personal information about Autistic residents, my information, and that of thousands of other Granite Staters, without our knowledge or consent.

I am 37 years old. I have understood since childhood that my mind works differently than most, and for decades I have worked hard and contributed to my community. I simply ask to be treated as a person first, not as a diagnosis or a data point. But imagine if state agencies used data-scraping technology to gather details about my Autism, treating me like an entry in a database rather than a human being. No one should catalog the workings of my mind without my permission. My medical information belongs to me until I choose to share it; it should not be harvested by computer programs or algorithms without my knowledge.

This bill isn't about blocking legitimate help. HB 1316 would still allow the state to access Autism-related data when it truly matters: when administering benefits, providing medical care, or complying with court orders. But it would prevent the possibility of indiscriminate collection. It would ensure that agencies cannot gather sensitive details about my condition unless I give my informed consent, or unless there's a specific legal requirement. The government should not watch us through every digital window just because the technology makes it possible.

Consider what could happen without these safeguards. If the government gathered information about how our minds work, information we never agreed to share, it would simply know too much about us. We could become specimens instead of citizens. Privacy is the foundation of every other liberty we enjoy. We deserve the same respect as anyone else: the right to be left alone, to decide what parts of our lives remain private and what parts we choose to make public.

We are people first, and medical categories second, or not at all. This bill recognizes that Autistic citizens possess the same rights as every other resident. It protects us from the risk of becoming numbers in a surveillance system we never signed up for. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on HB 1316 and defend the basic dignity of all New Hampshire residents.

Nothing about us without us.

Thank you for your attention.

Amherst, NH