



February 11, 2026

Honorable Chairman Berry
NH House Election Law Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1317

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1317. 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.

HB 1317 addresses a reality that people with disabilities understand all too well. When the government collects our medical, disability, or mental health information, that data does not exist in a vacuum. It carries power. And without clear limits, that power is routinely misused.

For people with disabilities, privacy violations are not abstract harms. They lead to discrimination in housing, employment, education, and public benefits. They expose people to surveillance, coercion, and retaliation. Once sensitive health data is shared beyond its original purpose, individuals lose control over how they are perceived, treated, and judged by systems that already fail to protect them.

HB 1317 draws a firm line. It tells state agencies, contractors, vendors, and grant recipients that collecting disability-related data is not a license to share it freely. Disclosure must be limited, justified, and necessary. Consent must be meaningful. Data must be minimized and de-identified whenever possible. These are not burdensome requirements. They are the bare minimum of responsible governance.

The bill also rejects the dangerous idea that efficiency outweighs civil rights. Convenience is not a justification for exposing deeply personal information. Administrative ease is not more important than bodily autonomy. HB 1317 makes clear that protecting privacy is a duty, not an inconvenience.

This legislation does not obstruct healthcare coordination or conflict with existing law. It strengthens it. By reinforcing HIPAA, the ADA, and other civil rights protections at the state level, HB 1317 closes gaps that have allowed harm to occur without consequence. The inclusion of enforcement authority matters.

Rights that cannot be enforced are performative.

For people with disabilities, privacy is inseparable from safety and self-determination. When our information is mishandled, we pay the price. HB 1317 shifts that burden back to the systems that collect and control the data in the first place.

ABLE NH urges this committee to pass HB 1317 and affirm that New Hampshire will not trade away the dignity and autonomy of people with disabilities in the name of convenience or overreach.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten M. Evans". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of each word being capitalized and prominent.

Krysten M. Evans
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