

GOLDWATER

I N S T I T U T E

February 9th, 2026

Representative Diane Pauer

Chair, Municipal and County Government Committee

RE: Support HB 1351 – Protect Entrepreneurship

Chair Pauer and Members of the Municipal and County Government Committee:

I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB 1351 on behalf of the Goldwater Institute. The Goldwater Institute works in courtrooms, capitols, and communities nationwide to protect constitutional rights and empower individuals to live freer lives. HB 1351 ensures that no-impact and low-impact home-based businesses are protected against unnecessary local regulations that needlessly intrude on people's ability to work from home, *while still allowing* local officials to target nuisances, ensure that buildings are safe and preserve neighborhood character. The bill thoughtfully protects homeowners operating no-impact and low-impact home-based businesses against lengthy, uncertain and expensive licensing and permitting processes, promoting entrepreneurship and incentivizing small business creation.

Over the past few decades, technological advances have afforded entrepreneurs unprecedented opportunities to start businesses from their homes, allowing them to save money, maintain a flexible schedule, and realize their dreams of self-employment. In fact, according to the U.S. Small Business Administration, more than 15 million businesses operate out of homes, providing flexibility and financial certainty for families across the country¹. Unfortunately, many cities and towns have outmoded zoning, licensing, and permitting requirements that are impeding entrepreneurs' freedom to run a business from their home.

While local government should protect neighborhoods against nuisances (which this bill still allows), they should not impose blanket burdensome rules on home-based businesses that do not have an impact on the surrounding neighborhood. If a mother can teach her daughter to play violin in her living room, it makes no sense for the government to penalize her for teaching someone else's daughter in that same living room for money. If it's legal to do your own income taxes at your kitchen table, there's no reason an accountant should have to jump through local regulatory hoops before doing someone else's taxes in their own home. As long as entrepreneurs are not disrupting traffic, causing loud noises or creating other nuisances (which this bill still allows localities to prevent), there's no reason entrepreneurs shouldn't be free to operate a home-based business.

Iowa, Missouri, Texas, Florida and West Virginia have all passed very similar laws protecting small businesses operating out of the owner's home. New Hampshire should join those states by protecting the entrepreneurial spirit. The Goldwater Institute proudly supports HB 1351 and urges you to support this legislation.

Sincerely,

Brian Norman

¹ Institute for Justice, "[New National Survey Shows the Rising Importance of Home-Based Businesses](#)" (2022)

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Director of State Affairs