



March 31, 2026

Chairman Berry
House Election Law Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of SB 438

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Krysten Evans, and I am 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. I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 438.

I am here today in strong support of Senate Bill 438. This bill takes an important and practical step forward by allowing the Department of Safety and the Secretary of State to securely share citizenship information collected through REAL ID applications with election officials, with the consent of the individual. This approach modernizes our election infrastructure while reducing unnecessary barriers for eligible voters.

For many people with disabilities, documentary requirements create real and lasting obstacles. Obtaining and carrying physical proof of citizenship such as a birth certificate or passport can be difficult or impossible for individuals with mobility limitations, chronic illness, cognitive disabilities, or limited access to transportation. Recent elections in New Hampshire have demonstrated that proof of citizenship requirements can result in eligible voters being turned away at the polls simply because they did not have the correct paperwork with them, even though they are citizens and qualified to vote.

When barriers like these exist, they do not fall evenly across the population. People with disabilities are more likely to live in poverty, more likely to rely on others for transportation, and more likely to experience bureaucratic hurdles when interacting with government systems. Senate Bill 438 helps address this inequity by allowing citizenship information that has already been verified through the REAL ID process to be shared with election officials, eliminating the need for voters to repeatedly prove what the state already knows.

This bill also supports the principles embedded in federal voting rights law, including the Voting Accessibility for the Elderly and Handicapped Act, which recognizes that accessibility must extend beyond the physical polling place and

into the registration and verification process itself. An accessible democracy is one where eligible voters are not burdened with redundant requirements that create confusion, delay, or exclusion.

In addition to improving access, Senate Bill 438 strengthens administrative efficiency and accuracy. Secure electronic information sharing reduces errors, shortens lines at polling places, and allows election officials to focus on assisting voters rather than resolving documentation disputes. This is particularly important for voters with communication or cognitive disabilities who may already need additional time or support during the voting process.

The bill also includes important privacy and consent protections. Individuals retain the right to choose whether their information is shared and may withdraw that consent at any time. These safeguards respect the autonomy and dignity of voters and ensure that modernization does not come at the expense of personal privacy.

Concerns about election integrity are often raised in discussions about voter access. However, research consistently shows that voter fraud is exceedingly rare, while barriers to voting have a measurable impact on eligible voters, particularly those from marginalized communities. Senate Bill 438 strikes a thoughtful balance by maintaining citizenship verification while removing unnecessary obstacles for voters who have already met federal identification standards.

For people with disabilities, voting is not just a civic duty. It is a declaration of belonging and equal citizenship. Senate Bill 438 moves New Hampshire closer to an election system that is secure, modern, and inclusive.

I urge you to support Senate Bill 438 and affirm this state's commitment to accessible and fair elections for all Granite Staters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,



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