



February 11, 2025

Honorable Chair Berry
House Election Law Committee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 323

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Opposition to HB 323. For the record, my name is Krysten Evans and I am the Director of Policy for ABLE NH. ABLE is a disability justice organization and we are a non partisan, non profit organization that fights for the civil and human rights of children and adults with disabilities.

I am here today to strongly oppose HB 323, which would impose significant barriers to voting for people with disabilities by restricting acceptable forms of identification.

HB 323 assumes that all eligible voters possess a government-issued driver's license or passport. However, this assumption ignores the reality that many people with disabilities do not or cannot drive and may not have a passport. This bill would remove the use of non-driver identification cards as a valid form of voter ID, directly disenfranchising people with disabilities who rely on this form of identification.

Many people with disabilities do not have a driver's license. According to national data, people with disabilities are significantly less likely to have a driver's license due to mobility impairments, vision loss, seizure disorders, or other conditions that prevent them from driving. These individuals rely on accessible transportation options and often obtain a state-issued non-driver identification card instead. By eliminating this option, HB 323 directly targets those who cannot drive.

Removing non-driver identification cards as an acceptable form of voter ID creates an insurmountable barrier for many people with disabilities. Unlike a driver's license, which many individuals obtain as part of the process of becoming independent drivers, a non-driver ID is specifically used by those who cannot drive. For individuals with disabilities, it is often their only form of state-issued identification. Under this bill, those individuals would now be forced to obtain alternative forms of ID, such as a passport, which is costly and not universally needed for daily life.

Transportation barriers make obtaining new forms of identification difficult. Many people with disabilities struggle to access the Division of Motor Vehicles due to limited public transportation, physical accessibility barriers, or the inability to wait in long lines. Additionally, obtaining a passport requires navigating a complex process that is not accessible to all, particularly for individuals with mobility or cognitive disabilities. This bill does not account for these challenges.

Voting should be accessible, not restrictive. Voting is a fundamental right, yet HB 323 creates unnecessary barriers for people who already face significant obstacles to civic participation. By removing non-driver identification cards as a valid form of voter ID, this bill will result in the disenfranchisement of many disabled voters.

New Hampshire must ensure that its election laws protect the right to vote for all eligible voters, including people with disabilities. HB 323 does the opposite, creating additional burdens for those least able to overcome them. If enacted, it will strip away the right to vote from individuals who already face systemic barriers in their daily lives simply because they do not or cannot drive.

I urge this committee to reject HB 323 and instead focus on policies that expand, rather than restrict, access to the ballot. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krysten Evans".

Krysten Evans

Krysten@ABLENH.org