



February 11, 2025

Honorable Chair Berry
House Election Law Committee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 365

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Opposition to HB 365. 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 testify in strong opposition to HB 365, a bill that erects unnecessary barriers to the fundamental right to vote, disproportionately harming people with disabilities, low-income individuals, and other marginalized communities.

HB 365 would require individuals who lack documentary proof of citizenship to navigate a burdensome verification process, adding yet another hurdle to the already challenging process of voter registration. While the bill proposes a voucher system to assist those deemed indigent in obtaining necessary documents, this is an inadequate and deeply flawed solution. Many people with disabilities face barriers to accessing their own records due to bureaucratic, financial, or logistical obstacles that this bill does nothing to address.

Furthermore, requiring election officials to verify citizenship through various databases raises serious concerns about privacy, accuracy, and administrative burden. Government databases are often incomplete, outdated, or inaccessible to individuals with disabilities. A clerical error or missing record could result in a legitimate voter being disenfranchised. For individuals who rely on direct support professionals, case managers, or guardians to assist with administrative tasks, this bill adds another layer of complexity to an already confusing and inconsistent system.

The ability to vote should not be contingent on navigating an overly complicated bureaucratic process or proving one's citizenship through additional documentation beyond existing requirements. The current system already ensures voter eligibility, and there is no evidence to suggest that additional proof is necessary to prevent fraud. Instead, what HB 365 will do is create unnecessary fear and confusion, deterring eligible voters especially those with disabilities from participating in our democracy.

At ABLE NH, we work every day to ensure that people with disabilities have a voice in the policies that affect their lives. Voting is one of the most fundamental ways for people with disabilities to exercise self-determination. This bill stands in direct opposition to that principle by making it harder, not easier, for our community to engage in the electoral process.

I urge this committee to reject HB 365 and instead focus on policies that remove barriers to voting, rather than creating new ones. Thank you for your time, and I welcome any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krysten Evans

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