



February 11, 2025

Honorable Chairman Berry
House Election Law Committee
Testimony in Opposition to HB 472

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Opposition to HB 472. 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 express our strong opposition to HB 472, a bill that represents a troubling trend in this legislative session, a deliberate effort to chip away at the voting rights of marginalized communities, particularly individuals with disabilities.

This session alone, we have witnessed an alarming number of bills designed to impose additional barriers to voting. HB 472 is a prime example, introducing onerous requirements for proving domicile that disproportionately affect voters with disabilities, low-income individuals, and those in non-traditional housing situations. Many disabled voters reside with family members or in assisted living facilities and do not possess documents like utility bills or leases in their name. This bill fails to consider their realities, effectively disenfranchising eligible voters.

The current system already mandates that voters prove domicile. HB 472 seeks to complicate this process further, granting election officials undue discretion to reject voters based on arbitrary standards. If a voter's residency is challenged, their only recourse is to appeal immediately to superior court, a daunting and often unfeasible option for individuals with mobility challenges, cognitive disabilities, or limited access to legal resources.

The sheer number of restrictive voting bills introduced this session is not only disheartening but also infuriating. It reflects a persistent attempt to erode the accessibility and inclusivity of our democratic process. Instead of erecting barriers, we should be enacting policies that facilitate participation for all eligible voters, ensuring that everyone can exercise their fundamental right to vote with dignity and ease.

HB 472 is an affront to the principles of fairness and equality. It does nothing to enhance election security but serves only to disenfranchise those who already face significant obstacles. I urge this committee to reject this harmful legislation and affirm your commitment to protecting the voting rights of all Granite Staters, especially those who are most vulnerable.

Thank you for your time. 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

Krysten@ABLENH.org