



February 1, 2024

Representative Ross Berry, Chair  
House Election Law Committee

**RE: HB 1119 – relative to absentee ballots.**

Dear Chairman Berry and Members of the House Election Law Committee,

My name is Chase Eagleson, and I am the Policy and Planning Coordinator of the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council). I am providing testimony on behalf of the DD Council membership, which believes this bill would have a positive impact on the developmental disability community.

We are all one accident, one sickness, or one decade away from having a disability. Disability is a normal part of the human experience, one which every person experiences themselves, as a friend, as a neighbor, and as a loved one. We must do all we can in order to support inclusion and enhance the lives of the disability community. We thank our legislators for their service to our community and for taking our testimony into consideration.

The NHCDD supports paths to increasing voting access, which we feel includes House Bill 1119. In addition to this, it aids in “normalizing” the accessibility needs of the disability community, ensuring that all Granite Staters are given the opportunity to vote safely and securely during winter storms. It is essential to ensure that all Granite Staters, regardless of ability, are given the option to both choose personal safety and the safety of those who support them, and participate in the voting process, without having to choose between the two.

Sincerely Yours,

Chase Eagleson, MCD, Policy and Planning Coordinator