

The Honorable Kelly Ayotte
Governor of New Hampshire
Office of the Governor
State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

Governor Ayotte,

As organizations representing concerned New Hampshire voters, military service members and veterans, voters with disabilities, and senior citizens, we strongly urge you to veto S.B. 287. This bill imposes unnecessary and burdensome new requirements that will severely restrict voting access and create more bureaucratic red tape for these voters' who already face significant challenges casting a ballot. Additionally, the bill would weaken local election integrity and place new costly burdens on municipal clerks.

S.B 287 will make it more difficult for military and overseas voters to cast a ballot

S.B. 287 would require voters to include a copy of a photo ID, appear in person at a clerk's office, or have their application notarized before receiving an absentee ballot. These steps are especially difficult for active-duty **service members and their families** stationed around the world — many of whom lack access to printers, notaries, or consistent mail service.

S.B. 287 will require veterans, voters with disabilities, and senior citizens to navigate complex government bureaucracy in order to vote

Many veterans and seniors with disabilities in New Hampshire already face significant barriers when trying to vote. Nearly one in five Granite Staters have a disability, and 15.6% of residents are over age 65. Older adults in the state demonstrate high civic engagement — with a turnout rate of 80.4%, among the highest nationally. Yet S.B. 287 would impose new burdens — requiring notarization, in-person visits, or access to printers and clerk offices — despite existing safeguards like signature verification or in-person voter verification of absentee ballots. These added steps risk disenfranchising those least able to navigate bureaucracy, undermining both the high levels of participation and the fundamental freedom to vote for veterans and seniors with disabilities.

S.B. 287 will place unnecessary, costly, and redundant government mandates on local election clerks

To register to vote in New Hampshire, an individual must provide proof of the following: (1) U.S. citizenship; (2) identity; (3) age; and (4) domicile. New Hampshire voters are supplying multiple documents to meet the standard required to prove their eligibility to vote. This bill is redundant because voters who have already supplied multiple identification documents must do so again to receive an absentee ballot. Local clerks will be required to process and handle more private information or have their office inundated with voters who want to show their identification to have an absentee ballot issued, increasing their workload. Our democracy is strongest when all eligible voters can participate freely and fairly. S.B. 287 undermines that principle.

The undersigned organizations urge you to veto this bill and instead work toward solutions that respect the service and dignity of all Granite Staters — especially those who have given the most for our country or face the greatest barriers to the ballot box.

Sincerely,

[Count Every Hero](#)

Admiral Thad Allen (Ret.), U.S. Coast Guard, Co-Chair

[Secure Families Initiative](#)

Rebecca Nowatchik, Acting Co-Director

[The Chamberlain Network](#)

Christopher Purdy, Chief Executive Officer

[Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America \(IAVA\)](#)

Rodger Pinto, Director of Policy and Advocacy

[Veterans For All Voters](#)

Eric Bronner, Founder & Chief Operating Officer

[Secure Democracy USA](#)

Diego A. Echeverri, Director of Advocacy