



New Hampshire Senate

News Release

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Birdsell troubled by bill to tax free speech

Concord, NH - Today, Senator Regina Birdsell (R-Hampstead), chair of Senate Public and Municipal Affairs Committee, issued a statement on SB 518, a bill which would tax political action committees, candidates and advocacy organizations on money paid out during an election cycle, which was voted inexpedient to legislate from committee.

"I am concerned by a bill heard today in Public and Municipal Affairs that would require local candidates, political action committees, campaigns, and other advocacy organizations to pay a tax on funds spent on behalf of promoting their candidate, organization, or cause," said Senator Regina Birdsell (R-Hampstead).

"This is a deliberate attempt to place a restrictive tax on our First Amendment right to freedom of speech. This legislation would enact an unconstitutional financial barrier on speech, preventing organizations and local candidates from freely exercising their right to present and disseminate information to the public."

"In a state honored to host the First in the Nation New Hampshire primary, this bill is especially disturbing because in an attempt to target out of state big money, it affects local candidates in New Hampshire who will feel the burden of an additional tax on the small funds they raise for local offices like State Representatives, Senators, and Executive Councilors," said Birdsell.

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