

For Immediate Release
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New Hampshire House Reaffirms Commitment to Voters

Concord, NH: The House of Representatives secured the longstanding tradition of trust and responsibility placed upon House Members when sworn into office, including but not limited to showing up in person, and being physically present to represent each constituent as promised. House Deputy Speaker Steven Smith (R-Charlestown) released the following statement regarding the amendment to House Rule 22 - relative to proxy voting - after it failed to pass on a bipartisan vote of 204-171:

“The idea of *one person, one vote* is something that we hold sacred in this country, and it is something that is enshrined in federal law. Functionally, proxy voting, without oversight, would essentially give a Member of the House two votes and opens the door for misuse of office.

That is not what I signed up for, and that is not what the voters sent me to do. I ran for office so that I could come here and be the physical representation of my district. It is the very least that we as representatives can do for those who cannot be here - those whom themselves do not have the ability to work from home.

Despite what our colleagues say, no other state is using proxy voting and the United States Congress is getting rid of it. Nearly three years later, most of New Hampshire is back to work - everyday people who do not have the luxury to do their job inside the comfort of their own homes - and our democratic counterparts ask for special treatment. We are here to defend the integrity of the institution, and we are here to be the voice for those who keep this great state running. That is the very least that we owe them.”

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