

April Friends File: Support Our Library – in Concord Today!



Our own Marcia McLaughlin, who along with her husband Craig, was voted Greenland Person(s) of the Year in 2021, urges those of us who love libraries to take legislative action pronto. Marcia, in her role as President, of the New Hampshire Library Trustees Association, recently shared this letter of concern on a bill before the legislature:.

NHLTA strongly opposes [HB 456](#), a bill that threatens free speech and limits the ability of municipalities -- including public libraries -- to advocate for the needs of their communities.

While aimed at the New Hampshire Municipal Association HB 456's sweeping restrictions have far-reaching impacts on organizations like NHLTA, which provide advocacy, training, and support for library trustees across the state. The bill's vague and arbitrary distinction between "providing information" and "lobbying" will have a chilling effect on the ability of trustees and this association to speak out on policy matters, cutting off communication between local trustees and lawmakers in Concord.

Moreover, HB 456 is not about fiscal responsibility or government transparency -- it's about silencing local voices and weakening the ability of communities to shape the policies that affect them directly.

We urge all New Hampshire residents to contact their representatives and demand a NO vote on HB 456. Public libraries thrive when trustees can advocate for them -- this bill would take that right away. The bill is going to the House floor on Wednesday, March 26, or Thursday, March 27, with a 7-4 recommendation of ought-to-pass (OTP) from the House Legislative Administration Committee.

We are urging everyone to contact their representatives in the House now and tell them to VOTE NO on HB 456. *Marcia McLaughlin*, President, NHLTA Board of Directors.

This is all taking place fairly quickly! The mission of the Friends of Weeks Library is "to generate public interest in and support of the library and to support and enhance the library's connection with the wider community". The Friends is not a political organization; we take no part in public political debate. This is not that. This is a bill that will directly affect our library and libraries across the state by potentially limiting our trustees and our staff's ability to deliver the kinds and qualities of programs and services that meet the needs of our Greenland community. And in many ways our library lies at the heart of Greenland.

In Greenland our representatives are: [Dennis Malloy](#), [Jaci Grote](#), and [Peggy Balboni](#).

-David Phreaner, Chair