



**AMERICANS FOR
PROSPERITY®**
NEW HAMPSHIRE

Dear Representative,

On behalf of Americans for Prosperity-New Hampshire activists, I urge you to OPPOSE the Committee of Conference report for House Bill 1476, relative to the release of a defendant pending trial. **This vote may be recorded in our 2022 session legislative scorecard.**

HB 1476 as amended in committee of conference, is now a draconian change to our bail system:

- This proposal is an unforgiving mandate to lockup anyone who has ever in their life been accused of low-level crimes. If this bill becomes law, it will needlessly fill up our county jails, and will increase the property tax burden on Granite Staters.
- HB 1476 will have a large negative impact on both judicial and county budgets. This will inevitably lead to an increase in property taxes.
- The overly broad language of Section 2 of the amended bill has many unintended consequences.
- For example, a person could have been charged with two counts of trespassing for protesting the Vietnam war in the 1960s, get those charges dismissed, then get picked up in 2022 for driving on an expired license, and now must be detained.
- Due to how broadly this amendment was written, this bill disregards individuals who were accused of a crime decades ago and had the charges dropped or were found not guilty, by still counting that as a strike against them and a reason to hold them in jail.
- This clearly was not the intent of the bill, but due to this error, this legislation is not prepared to become law and must be rejected.
- Presumption of innocence is violated throughout this bill. Broadly declaring that a defendant “shall” be held takes away judicial discretion in assessing the individual case. This treats all accused of certain crimes as equal threats to communities regardless of the circumstances or evidence against them and takes a top-down approach when a more targeted response would be appropriate.

For these reasons we ask that you OPPOSE the Committee of Conference report.

Sincerely,

Ross Connolly
Deputy State Director
Americans for Prosperity-New Hampshire