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February 20, 2022

Via Express Mail EJ 834 647 365 US

Karen Umberger, Chairperson  
Finance Committee  
NH House of Representatives  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: HB 1677

Dear Chairperson Umberger:

I write to you in my capacity as General Counsel to Union Leader Corporation and as Vice President of the New England First Amendment Coalition regarding proposed House Bill 1677. While my clients believe that a vehicle for the resolution of claims alleging abuse at the Youth Development Center is an admirable goal, the provision calling for an amendment to R.S.A. 91-A:5 creating a blanket exemption for records pertaining to the administration and settlement of these claims is a drastic and draconian step in the wrong direction. An expenditure of one hundred million dollars (\$100,000,000) of taxpayer funds, which could increase in the event of a shortfall, requires full transparency and accountability. This bill, to which opposition has already been mounted, cannot be properly administered in secrecy.

Redaction of portions of records to ensure privacy where warranted is the appropriate remedy for balancing privacy rights and the right of the citizenry of New Hampshire to know how their public officials and employees are performing their duties. A blanket exemption flies in the face of Part I, Article 8 of the New Hampshire Constitution and the preamble to R.S.A. 91-A. Please know that should any bill attempt to create a per se exemption of this nature would lead me to advise my clients to

**Malloy & Sullivan**  
LAWYERS  
PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

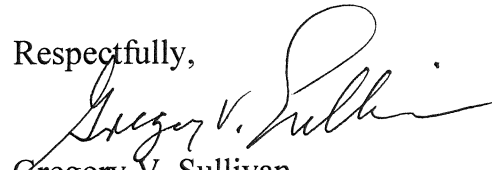
Karen Umberger, Chairperson

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challenge that bill in the Courts of New Hampshire. I ask that you share this letter with all members of the Finance Committee. Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your consideration.

Respectfully,



Gregory V. Sullivan

xc: Brendan McQuaid, President,  
Union Leader Corporation

Justin Silverman, Executive Director,  
New England First Amendment Coalition