

May 22, 2022

**LTE Project:**

**Topic:** Radical Right in NH Legislature

**Author:** Linda Terwilliger

**Publication:** Laconia Daily Sun

**Max word count:** 300 words

**Status** – In Progress/Submitted for Comments on May 22.

**(START)**

Recently, I learned that 150 Republicans in our NH Legislature received the highest approval rating for their voting records, from an anti-government extremist organization.

They include members of the “free-state” project and their allies, including fourteen Representatives from all nine Belknap County Districts.

When radical-right politicians mention “individual liberties,” they clearly do NOT mean yours or mine. They are mocking our Constitution and our American democracy. With the help of their political allies, they have already passed NH laws to disrupt and dismantle our free and fair election system, our public schools, and our public health system. Unfortunately, more moderate Republicans continue to appease them for fear of retaliation.

They have already undermined our constitutional guarantee of equal rights by restricting the rights of voters, women, union workers, kids in school and the LGBTQ community. They are attempting to upend the careful balance of power between all levels of government, one of the cornerstones of our democracy. They disparage the integrity of our election workers, judges, and teachers. In March, thirteen Republican legislators even voted to secede New Hampshire from the United States.

To gain more political power, the Republican party has more closely aligned its agenda with the Libertarian-Right, the Religious-Right and many anti-government, anti-democratic organizations. As a result, they have gained support from white supremacists, ultranationalists, conspiracy theorists and hate groups vying for political control in our state and nation.

These groups purposefully foster distrust in our democratic government, which require bi-partisanship, goodwill and cooperation to work. Their leaders’ ultimate goal is to replace our American democracy with political disorder and lawlessness, paving the way to dangerous autocratic rule.

Our Republican-controlled state legislature passed hundreds of really bad bills that will negatively affect you, me, our families and communities for years to come.

**(END)**