

Jill Cataldi

From: Tom Sgouros <tsgouros@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, June 14, 2021 10:30 AM
To: House State Government and Elections Committee
Subject: opposition to H5891A

Dear Committee Members:

The pandemic induced a change to all of our lives as we adjusted to reduce the spread of infection. Adjusting to remote meetings of public bodies was one of those necessary inconveniences. But it was an inconvenience and is not a substitute for being present with the legislators or town council members or school committee or any other public body. It is great to be able to offer more opportunity for public participation through electronic means, but not if those become the only way possible.

The practice of having the public access public meetings through electronic means alone must be a response to future public health exigency, not a precaution extended indefinitely past the crisis period of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for the consideration.

Yours sincerely,

-Tom Sgouros, North Kingstown