13 Cayuga St.
Union Springs, NY 13160

Dear Chair Kruger, Chair Pretlow, and members of the New York State Senate Health/Medicaid Committee,

My name is Patricia S. Kimber and I am writing to you today as a concerned citizen to provide testimony on how the proposed bill regarding "Part U – Digitize Genealogical Records" in the FY 2026 Executive Budget would impact my ability to access genealogical/community/historical records.

This issue is particularly important to me as genealogy has helped me understand my ancestors, and the world around them. It has helped me connect with long-lost relatives and feel more connected to my family and community. It helped me understand who I am and where I came from.

Genealogy has helped me learn about my ancestors' struggles and how they overcame them. It has enabled me to feel more grateful and empathetic by learning about my ancestors' stories and struggles. It has provided valuable insight into the cultures, traditions and values that shaped my family over generations and forged a strong sense of identify and belonging.

Through genealogy, my family stories have been recorded and safeguarded for future generations. It has ensured that our family traditions are passed down while fostering a sense of connection and adding depth to our understanding of our family.

Through my research in Cayuga, Onondaga, Oneida, Albany, Madison and Renssalaer counties, I have gained a better understanding of myself, our family culture and its place in history. This research has enabled me to identify and connect with previously unknown ancestors and their roles in Revolutionary War enriching my life and leaving a lasting legacy for my children, grandchildren and their future generations.

This issue is urgent, and your leadership is a necessary component to ensure continued access to New York State vital records for myself and the family history community. Your consideration of these matters is very much appreciated, and I thank you for the opportunity to speak.

Sincerely,

Patricia S. Kimber