



NAMI New Hampshire

April 6, 2022

Honorable Chairman Jeb Bradley
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Legislate Office Building Room 101
North Main St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 1345

Dear Chairman and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Holly Stevens, and I am the Director of Public Policy at NAMI New Hampshire, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. On behalf of NAMI NH, I am here today to speak in opposition to HB 1345, relative to the release of a teenager's medical records to a parent or guardian.

NAMI New Hampshire strongly believes in the system of care that has been set up to address children's mental health needs in our state. We also recognize the importance of the role of the family within that system. However, in looking at the adverse childhood experience statistics in our state, it is evident that there are many cases where children could greatly benefit from a private therapeutic relationship with a therapist. Those already vulnerable children would be even more vulnerable if this bill were to pass as amended by the House. Many adverse childhood experiences happen at the hands of a parent or guardian.

In NAMI NH's experience, counselors and therapists who are proficient in their practice, will involve the family, including parents and guardians, in the treatment of an adolescent patient when it is in the best interest of the child. HB 1345 section 1, II does not do enough to protect children whose therapist believes that releasing the information would be harmful to or endanger the child.

Therefore, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote inexpedient to legislate HB 1345. I am happy to answer any questions that you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly A. Stevens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end.

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

Reflecting on 40 Years: Continuing Our Journey to Hope, Help, and Health

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