

NAMI New Hampshire Statement on Proposed Legislation Impacting LGBTQIA+ Youth
(January 24, 2023)

Concord, NH — NAMI New Hampshire is extremely concerned by legislation put forward in the current session that is harmful to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ youth. These bills include **HB 396** (relative to state recognition of biological sex); **HB 10** (parental rights bill which could force school personnel to disclose information about student gender/sexuality to guardians); **HB 417** (adding gender-affirming health care to the definition of child abuse); and **HB 619** (prohibiting gender-affirming health care for minors and effectively repealing the current ban on conversion therapy) – **all of which NAMI NH opposes.** The longer this proposed legislation stays active in legislative committees, the more harm it will do to LGBTQIA+ youth.

According to [The Trevor Project’s 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#), in the past year 39% of LGBTQ youth in New Hampshire seriously considered suicide and 10% of LGBTQ youth in New Hampshire attempted suicide. The study also found that recent politics had negatively impacted well-being for 80% of LGBTQ youth in New Hampshire.

Studies consistently indicate a high risk for depression, suicide attempts and suicide death for transgender youth and young adults. Emerging research demonstrates that transgender and gender non-conforming youth and young adults are likely to attempt suicide at alarmingly higher rates than their peers in the general population. **NAMI NH is committed to addressing suicide as a public health issue and reducing the incidence of suicidal ideation, attempts, and deaths for all people in New Hampshire.**

Affirming transgender and nonbinary youth is associated with lower rates of suicide attempts. Additionally, LGBTQ youth with access to community spaces that affirm their gender identity and sexual orientation report lower rates of suicide attempts.

NAMI New Hampshire is strongly in favor of legislation that will support the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQIA+ youth in our state. This session, such legislation includes **HB 264** (allowing for a new birth record with chosen gender); **HB 315** (prohibiting provocations based on actual or perceived gender); and **HB 368** (protecting gender-affirming health care/mental health care).

NAMI New Hampshire’s mission is to improve the lives of all Granite Staters affected by mental illness and suicide. Our community members who identify as LGBTQIA+ often face daily discrimination and lack family support – both factors that can increase risk for mental health problems including suicidality. Support from family members, friends, colleagues, legislators, and community members is critical.

NAMI NH stands firm in our commitment to support LGBTQIA+ youth and young adults – this includes opposing harmful legislation, promoting supportive legislation, and offering hope and help always.

Visit [NAMINH.org/LGBTQIA](https://naminh.org/LGBTQIA) for mental health resources specifically curated to support the LGBTQIA+ community.