



March 15, 2023

Honorable Chairman Kenneth Weyler  
House Finance  
Legislative Office Building 210-11  
North State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to Amendment #2023-0767h to HB 49

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 NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI NH is a non-profit, grassroots organization whose mission is to improve the lives of all people impacted by mental illness and suicide through support, education, and advocacy. On behalf of NAMI NH, I am here today to speak in opposition to amendment #2023-0767h to HB 49, relative to postponing the closure of the Sununu Youth Services Center.

Although NAMI NH applauds the efforts of the House Finance Committee on amendment #2023-0767h, we have some serious concerns related to staffing and funding. One goal of the new juvenile treatment center (JTC) is to provide all children residing there with appropriate and sufficient evidence-based and trauma-informed care. This goal can only be accomplished with adequate staffing, which amendment #2023-0767h does not provide. Staffing ratios should be determined by the treatment needs of the children and not an arbitrary national standard. Additionally, funding should be based on an assessment of what it will cost to run this specific facility and the treatment that is needed, not an average per-child amount based on facilities functioning under different needs and circumstances than the one being built here in New Hampshire. For those two reasons, NAMI NH opposes amendment #2023-0767h to HB 49. 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 written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

*Find Help, Find Hope.*

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