



NAMI  
National Alliance on Mental Illness

# New Hampshire

February 8, 2024

Honorable Chairman Terry Roy  
House Criminal Justice and Public Safety Committee  
Legislate Office Building Room 202-204  
33 North State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 1658

Dear Chairman Roy and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. My name is Holly Stevens, and I am the Director of Public Policy at NAMI New Hampshire, 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 writing in opposition to HB 1658, relative to developing a notification database for those individuals with orders of commitment or revocations of conditional discharges.

Establishing a database that would include orders of commitment and revocations of conditional discharges would jeopardize private health information and do nothing to further the safety of New Hampshire residents or officers. As such, NAMI NH is unclear about what this bill is trying to accomplish.

According to the Concord Monitor, sixty percent of the officer involved shootings in New Hampshire involve people with a known mental illness. When these shootings take place, it has an enormous impact on the victim and their family. It also has a profound impact on the police officer who is involved in the shooting due to ongoing post-traumatic stress and anxiety after a shooting takes place. HB 1658 could create more adverse engagements between individuals with mental illness and law enforcement, potentially leading to more deaths and negative mental health outcomes for all involved.

It is the understanding of NAMI NH that when the community mental health centers (CMHC) need law enforcement to assist with a revocation of a conditional discharge, they contact law enforcement and get them involved. Therefore, this bill is unnecessary, divulges private mental health information, and would lead to more adverse engagement between law enforcement and individuals with mental illness. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote inexpedient to legislate on HB 1658.

Sincerely,

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

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

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