



February 7, 2024

Honorable Chairman Wayne MacDonald
House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207
33 N State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 1663

Dear Chairman MacDonald 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 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 writing in opposition to HB 1663, relative to the confidentiality of medical records and patient information.

NAMI NH recognizes the importance of patient confidentiality and believes that the health information of all patients should be handled with the utmost respect. While pursuing this goal, however, efficient and appropriate access to care and continuity of care must be maintained. When individuals with mental illness receive the right services, at the right place, at the right time, fewer folks will end up homeless, hospitalized, and/or incarcerated. We share the concerns of other stakeholders that HB 1663 will negatively impact the ability of providers, including mental health providers, to work collaboratively and efficiently with their partners and patients, therefore limiting access to critically needed services for patients. In addressing the mental health crisis we are facing both locally and nationally, our utmost priority should be expanding access to care for those who need it most. As such, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote Inexpedient to Legislate for HB 1663.

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.

Find Help, Find Hope.

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