



April 25, 2024

Honorable Chair Sharon Carson  
Senate Judiciary Committee  
State House Room 100  
107 N Main St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 619

Dear Chair Carson and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sam Hawkins, and I am the Public Policy Assistant 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 HB 619, to require a person to attain the age of majority for genital gender reassignment surgery.

Due to the elevated rates of negative mental health outcomes that transgender and nonbinary young people often experience as a result of stigma and discrimination, NAMI NH opposes legislation that singles out trans and nonbinary individuals, such as HB 619.

Further, NAMI NH has significant concerns regarding the prohibition on referrals contained in the bill, specifically as it relates to insurance coverage. If an individual requires medical care from a specialist or an out-of-network provider, a referral is usually required to qualify for insurance coverage. Given the prohibition on referrals in HB 619, should a family seek the care from a provider out of state where it may be available, their insurance would likely deny the claim due to not having a referral, exposing the family to extreme out-of-pocket costs for the care their child requires. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote ITL for HB 619.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel C. Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping initial "S".

Samuel C. Hawkins

*Find Help, Find Hope.*

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