



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI | New Hampshire

January 21, 2025

Honorable Chairman Joe Alexander
House Housing Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 305
33 N State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support for HB 351

Chairman Alexander and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. 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 writing in support of HB 351, requiring landlords to give tenants of at-will tenancies at least a 60-day notice to evict.

As a critical social determinant of health, stable housing is a crucial element of recovery for individuals living with a mental illness. Housing instability can contribute to stress, anxiety, and other mental health symptoms. At the same time, the symptoms of a serious mental health condition can make finding and maintaining housing more challenging, especially given the discrimination that people with a mental illness may experience in the rental process. When this basic need isn't met, people may cycle in and out of homelessness, jails, shelters, and hospitals.

HB 351, which extends the notice requirement for eviction of at-will tenancies from 30 to 60 days, will support individuals with a mental illness by providing more time to find new housing, preventing more people from ending up homeless, hospitalized, or incarcerated. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote Ought to Pass for HB 351.

Sincerely,

Samuel C. Hawkins

Find Help, Find Hope.

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