



February 19, 2025

Honorable Chairman Bob Lynn
House Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 206-208
33 N State St, Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 148

Chairman Gannon and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Sam Hawkins, and I am here today representing 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 here today to speak in opposition to HB 148, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain circumstances.

As an organization committed to preventing suicide and promoting the mental wellness of all Granite Staters, NAMI NH is deeply concerned about the harmful impacts that discrimination in all forms has upon mental health. Research consistently demonstrates that experiencing discrimination has a negative effect on mental health and increases the risk of suicide. With this in mind, NAMI NH believes that stigma and discrimination, in all forms, jeopardizes mental health and wellness not just for the individual, but throughout the entire community. As such, NAMI NH is firm in its opposition to any policies that further stigma and enable discrimination.

By rolling back the discrimination protections we currently have under state law, HB 148 puts the mental health and safety of New Hampshire individuals and families at risk. With this policy in place, transgender and nonbinary Granite Staters will be exposed to discrimination - in their communities, at work, in treatment, and beyond. This would have a chilling effect on not only transgender and nonbinary people themselves, but also their families, their loved ones, and the communities they have found and formed in our state.

Find Help, Find Hope.

NAMI New Hampshire • 85 North State Street • Concord, NH 03301
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New Hampshire has a long history of fiercely protecting the rights of its residents and working together to support our communities. All Granite Staters deserve to live full, healthy, safe lives, as who they truly are, alongside their neighbors, within their community. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote Inexpedient to Legislate for HB 148.

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