



February 19, 2025

Honorable Chairman Glenn Cordelli
House Education Policy and Administration Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 205-207
33 N State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support for HB 50

Chairman Cordelli and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Sam Hawkins, and I am 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 writing in support of HB 50, relative to teaching discrimination in public schools and discrimination in public workplaces.

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 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 jeopardizes mental health and wellness not just for the individual, but throughout the entire community.

Schools and workplaces are distinct and important communities within our larger society. For most, the interactions we have in these communities are the most defining of our daily lives. We have a responsibility to ensure that every student and employee in the state of New Hampshire is safe from discrimination. This bill would protect the right of schools and workplaces to teach on discrimination and will reduce harm to large and important sections of our communities. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote Ought to Pass for HB 50.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Samuel C. Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Samuel C. Hawkins

Find Help, Find Hope.

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