



February 19, 2025

Honorable Chairman John Hunt
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 302-304
33 N State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 517

Chairman Hunt 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 opposition to HB 517, repealing the Granite State paid family leave plan.

Like other health conditions, the impact of a serious mental health condition affects not only the individual, but their family and loved ones. In times of crisis, it is crucial for loved ones and caregivers to be able to take time to support their family without taking on an undue financial burden. As an organization, we know that many of our folks rely on paid family medical leave when their loved ones need a higher level of care. The flexibility and stability that paid family medical leave provides allows families to prioritize health and wellness without risking financial instability or job loss. Simply put, no one should face financial pressures for needing to care for their loved one, and no one in crisis should go without support because their caregiver could not afford to take the time away.

HB 517 has the potential to strip Granite State families of a crucial safety net and the ability to support their family members in times of need, without providing any alternative. For that reason, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote Inexpedient to Legislate for HB 517.

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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