



February 11, 2025

Honorable Chairman James Gray
Senate Finance Committee
State House Room 103
107 N Main St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support for SB 238

Chairman Gray 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 support of SB 238, extending funding for the adverse childhood experiences prevention and treatment pilot program.

Children are some of the most vulnerable members of our community, both in terms of risk of maltreatment and the impact of such events upon their development. The negative effects of Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) are well documented and reach far into a person's lifespan, impacting their lifelong health and opportunities. NAMI NH firmly believes that early intervention, prevention, and treatment for exposure to ACEs is crucial to protecting the mental health and wellness of Granite Staters, from childhood into adulthood. When we connect individuals and families with the resources they need before their situation reaches a crisis point, we can avoid adverse outcomes and decrease utilization of higher intensity services, all of which may decrease the financial burden on the state. With this in mind, the appropriation in SB 238 is money well spent, and NAMI NH urges the committee to recommend the bill Ought to Pass.

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.

NAMI New Hampshire • 85 North State Street • Concord, NH 03301
InfoLine: 800-242-6264 • Tel. 603-225-5359 • Fax 603-228-8848 • info@naminh.org / www.NAMINH.org