



March 12, 2025

Honorable Chairman David Rochefort
Senate Health and Human Services Committee
Legislative Office Building Room 101
33 N State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support for SB 252

Chairman Rochefort and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony. My name is Sam Hawkins, and I represent 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 write in support of SB 252, relative to criteria for providing certain medical care through telemedicine.

Throughout the Granite State, many individuals and families impacted by mental illness struggle to access the care they need. The reasons for this are numerous and varied, however, one key barrier to accessing care is provider shortages within the community. For people living in rural areas of our state, as well as those facing other barriers such as transportation challenges and busy schedules, telehealth can be an easy and effective way to access needed mental health care. Though some people may need more intensive, in-person services, having various options available to connect patients and providers is crucial to increasing access to care, especially considering New Hampshire's ongoing healthcare workforce shortage. Further, though successful treatment looks different for each person, appropriate medication can be an important aspect of a comprehensive treatment plan. SB 252 helps eliminate barriers to accessing appropriate medications by allowing providers to prescribe certain medications through telehealth without having an existing relationship, improving options for care, connecting people to the care they need more quickly, and alleviating the negative impacts of the healthcare workforce shortage. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to recommend Ought to Pass for SB 252.

Sincerely,

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

Samuel C. Hawkins

Find Help, Find Hope.

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