



# NAMI New Hampshire

January 21, 2026

Honorable Chairman Bob Lynn  
House Judiciary Committee  
Granite Place Room 230  
1 Granite Pl, Concord, NH 03301

## **RE: NAMI NH Support for CACR 25**

Chairman Lynn and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write in support of CACR 25, relative to the right to marry. Providing that the right to marry is a fundamental civil right and that the state shall protect the right of every individual, regardless of sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, or race, to marry and to have their marriage legally recognized.

The impacts of stigma and discrimination on community health, safety, and wellness cannot be understated. For LGBTQ+ young people specifically, research shows a clear link between supportive communities and a decrease in rates of suicide attempts. According to a 2024 national survey, LGBTQ+ young people who reported living in very accepting communities attempted suicide at less than half the rate of those who reported living in very unaccepting communities.<sup>1</sup>

CACR 25 presents an opportunity to affirm the Granite State's position as a safe, accepting community for LGBTQ+ people and their families. Research has provided empirical evidence for an association between same-sex marriage policies and mental health outcomes, as a 2017 study concluded that "state same-sex marriage policies were associated with a reduction in the proportion of high school students reporting suicide attempts."<sup>2</sup> This bill seeks to protect the fundamental rights of many Granite Staters, and in doing so, will support community mental health. For this reason, NAMI NH urges the committee to recommend Ought to Pass for CACR 25.

Sincerely,

Sam Hawkins

<sup>1</sup>2024 U.S. National Survey on the Mental Health of LGBTQ+ Young People, The Trevor Project (2024)

<sup>2</sup>Difference-in-Differences Analysis of the Association Between State Same-Sex Marriage Policies and Adolescent Suicide Attempts, Raifman J, Moscoe E, Austin SB, McConnell M., JAMA Pediatrics (2017)

*Find Help, Find Hope.*

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