



NAMI New Hampshire

January 21, 2026

Honorable Chairman John Hunt
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs
One Granite Place, Room 229
Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support of HB 1761

Dear Chairman Hunt and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Holly Stevens, and I am the Director of Public Policy at 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 today in support of HB 1761, expanding the New Hampshire paid family and medical leave program.

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 themselves or 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 they or their loved ones need a higher level of care. The flexibility and stability that paid family medical leave provides allows individuals and 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 themselves or their loved one, and no one in crisis should go without support because they or their caregiver could not afford to take the time away.

Expanding the current program to include individuals recently separated from their employment would go a long way in strengthening the existing family medical leave program in New Hampshire. Therefore, NAMI NH urges the committee to vote ought to pass on HB 1761.

Sincerely,

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

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