



February 18, 2026

Honorable Chairman Wayne MacDonald
House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs
One Granite Place, Room 158
Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support of HB 1070

Dear Chairman MacDonald 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 1070, relative to the involuntary emergency admission process.

Though transport within an ambulance is permitted under current law, far too often, we hear of individuals in mental health crisis who are needlessly placed in wrist and ankle shackles and transported to and from the hospital in a law enforcement vehicle. People with mental health conditions deserve help, not handcuffs. Though a person in mental health crisis may meet the criteria for an evaluation or even an Involuntary Emergency Admission (IEA), that risk may not rise to the severity that would require such practices – practices that contribute to trauma for the individual and the stigma that prevents people from seeking help. Ambulance transport is the most humane way to transport a person in need of care and should be required, unless it is deemed unsafe by law enforcement. It also should be noted that a mental health emergency is the only kind of health emergency where law enforcement rather than an ambulance is used.

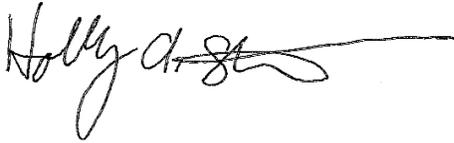
However, we recognize the cost to the individual associated with being transported by ambulance and the stress it may cause. When discussing this bill with our community members, we heard individuals share that they would prefer a choice in their mode of transport. Therefore, NAMI NH supports HB 1070 to ensure dignity for the individual, reduce stress and trauma, and eliminate stigma. However, we would encourage the committee to adopt a minor amendment enabling patient choice in mode of transport. On page one, line 17 of the bill, after the word technician, we

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suggest adding the following, **“unless the person being transported for the compulsory mental health evaluation requests to be transported by law enforcement.”** Therefore, NAMI NH would urge the committee to vote ought to pass on HB 1070 with the suggested amendment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly A. Stevens" with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

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