



February 18, 2026

Honorable Chairman Wayne MacDonald  
House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee  
Granite Place Room 158  
1 Granite Pl, Concord, NH 03301

**RE: NAMI NH Support for HB 1794**

Chairman MacDonald and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write in support of HB 1794, directing the department of health and human services to identify the impact of Medicaid changes on New Hampshire residents' access to health care.

Here in New Hampshire and throughout the country, the healthcare landscape is changing rapidly, especially for those covered by state Medicaid Expansion programs. Between the federal “One Big Beautiful Bill Act” and the 2026-2027 NH State Budget, individuals and families have been faced with confusion and uncertainty amidst significant, duplicative, and sometimes contradictory policies impacting Medicaid eligibility and cost-sharing. Over the past year, we have repeatedly heard panic and confusion from the Granite Staters we serve. Time and again, our community has shared their fear that they may lose access to the services that keep them and their families well.

Access to health coverage is essential for people with mental illness to successfully manage their condition and achieve long-term recovery. When people have access to the care they need, when and where they need it, fewer people will end up homeless, hospitalized, or incarcerated. Easy access to affordable care is critical to the health and well-being of all Granite Staters and often prevents the need for costly higher levels of care. As the largest payer of mental health and substance use disorder services, Medicaid provides access to critical services like psychotherapy, inpatient treatment, prescription medications, crisis care, and more. Policies that increase cost burden on Medicaid beneficiaries or create barriers to coverage disproportionately harm individuals and families impacted by mental health and substance use disorders.

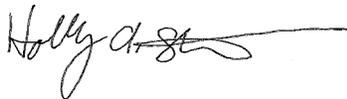
Now and in the coming years, the state will be working to understand the impact of changes to Medicaid eligibility and cost-sharing in state and federal law and how we may be able to mitigate harms, protect the system, and ensure long-term health and recovery for New Hampshire families.

*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](mailto:info@naminh.org) / [www.NAMINH.org](http://www.NAMINH.org)

HB 1794 starts that work now. Though this bill does not reverse the changes or provide solutions for those who will be impacted, it is a crucial first step for the state to prepare for and address the impacts these changes will have on upstream and downstream access to services, the healthcare workforce, and community providers in all regions of the state. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to recommend Ought to Pass for HB 1794.

Sincerely,

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

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

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