

February 3, 2026

Honorable Chair Ruth Ward  
Senate Education Committee  
Map Room, NH State Library  
20 Park Street, Concord, NH

**RE: NAMI NH Opposition to SB 430**

Chair Ward and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write in opposition to SB 430, relative to mandatory disclosure by school district employees to parents.

NAMI NH recognizes and celebrates the fundamental importance of parent-child relationships in a young person's development and the impact it has on their lifelong mental health. Undoubtedly, family relationships are the most impactful within a child's life. However, over the course of their adolescence, youth engage with an entire community of peers and adults that play a role in their health, wellness, safety, and opportunity. Oftentimes youth will approach trusted adults in their community, including educators, with questions or challenges before their parents. This occurs not because the trusted adult relationship is more important than that of the parent, but because it is a lower-stakes relationship presenting an opportunity for them to begin working through a situation.

It is crucial that educators are open to having these conversations with students when the student feels they need to happen, so that the youth may become more willing to ask for help, engage in problem-solving, and bring the challenge to their parents when the youth is ready to.

While educators have an important responsibility to communicate a child's challenges to their parents, we have concerns that this bill may create a wedge in the trusted adult relationship for both the educator and the young person. Core to this concern is the vagueness of the "completely and honestly" standard. These conversations are a crucial stepping-stone to building a child's confidence, and without them, many young people may go on struggling in silence.

Further, while the bill does allow for information to be withheld if there is a belief that disclosure will result in abuse or neglect, it is unclear to us how the state is expected to handle such reports. As referenced in the bill, reports made pursuant to RSA 169-C:30 are intended to detail suspected incidents of current, previous, or ongoing abuse and neglect, not harm that may exclusively result

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following disclosure. The bill as drafted does not lay out any process for what is to happen after a report, providing effectively no ability for the state to ensure the future safety of the child.

As such, NAMI NH asks that the committee carefully consider the consequences of such policies and how it may erode the school community and have a chilling effect on a young person's mental wellness, in addition to the questions of process that the bill fails to address. As written, SB 430 does not sufficiently protect youth mental health and safety, nor does it strengthen family relationships. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to recommend ITL for SB 430.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sam Hawkins".

Sam Hawkins