



February 11, 2026

Honorable Chairman Bill Gannon
Senate Judiciary Committee
State House Room 100
107 N Main St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to SB 459 & SB 552

Chairman Gannon and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write in opposition to SB 459, relative to biological sex in student athletics and prisons, and SB 552, permitting classification of individuals based on biological sex under certain limited circumstances.

As an organization committed to preventing suicide and promoting the mental wellness of all Granite Staters, NAMI NH is deeply concerned about the harmful impacts that discrimination has upon mental health. Research consistently demonstrates that experiences with stigma and discrimination have a negative effect on mental health and help-seeking, and increases the risk of suicide in affected communities. The impacts of stigma and discrimination are pervasive, jeopardizing mental health and wellness not just for the individual, but throughout an entire community. As such, NAMI NH is firm in its opposition to any policies that further stigma and enable discrimination.

Together, SB 459 and 552 pose a great risk to mental health and safety by effectively eliminating the protections against discrimination for transgender and nonbinary Granite Staters in existing state law. With these policies in place, transgender and nonbinary Granite Staters will be exposed to discrimination - in their communities, at work, in treatment, in recreation, and beyond. This would have a chilling effect on not only transgender and nonbinary people themselves, but also their families, their loved ones, and the communities they have found and formed in our state.

New Hampshire has a long history of fiercely protecting the rights of its residents and working together to support our communities. In fact, similar bills have been vetoed by both Governor Sununu and Governor Ayotte in recent years. All Granite Staters deserve to live full, healthy, safe lives within their community, an ideal which has been continuously affirmed and protected by advocates, community members, and state leaders alike. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to oppose SB 459 and SB 552.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sam Hawkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sam Hawkins

Find Help, Find Hope.

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