



March 3, 2026

Honorable Chairman James Gray  
Senate Election Law and Municipal Affairs Committee  
State House Room 122  
107 N Main St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Opposition to HB 348

Chairman Gray and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write in opposition to HB 348, relative to eligibility for local assistance.

HB 348 allows municipalities to establish a residency requirement to become eligible for local assistance and creates burdensome documentation requirements for proving such residency. We have grave concerns that this bill would render many individuals with a mental illness leaving treatment or jail, as well as individuals experiencing homelessness, unable to access assistance.

Every day, individuals living with mental health conditions may leave inpatient or residential treatment or incarceration without the resources they need to support themselves within their community. Some of these folks may have lost their housing over the course of their treatment or incarceration (or not had housing beforehand) and may lack the resources to return to their home community. Under HB 348, these individuals would not be able to seek local general assistance in the town or city they were hospitalized in and could face great challenges receiving it from the municipality they originally resided in. Without such assistance, people living with mental health conditions may find themselves stuck in a cycle of homelessness, incarceration, or hospitalization.

HB 348 will negatively impact access to assistance for those in need, including disproportionately affecting those with a mental health condition, leading to costly outcomes for the person and the state as a whole. For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee to oppose HB 348.

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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