



April 15, 2026

Honorable Chair Erica Layon
House Executive Departments and Administration
Granite Place Room 231
1 Granite Place, Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH testimony on SB 640

Dear Chair Layon and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony 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 to provide the committee with information regarding the use of artificial intelligence in behavioral health.

As widespread use of artificial intelligence within mental health care is relatively new, advocates and experts have yet to fully assess the impact it may have on a person's treatment. As such, NAMI NH does not at present have a position of the role of such technology within the state's mental health system.

However, given the immediacy of the issue and the need to prioritize quality treatment outcomes when considering such policies, we have attached a document outlining a set of principles for the use of AI in behavioral health care that was recently adopted by NAMI National. We hope that this resource may be informative as the committee considers this bill and similar policies in the future.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Holly A. Stevens". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

Find Help, Find Hope.

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Alliance in Action

- January 16, 2026

2026 Priority: Addressing Artificial Intelligence in Behavioral Health

Vision Statement

The CEO Alliance for Mental Health commits to a future where AI innovation and protections advance together to transform the behavioral health ecosystem. As leaders of the nation’s major mental health organizations, we leverage our collective power to provide nonpartisan, science-driven guidance that shapes the future of technology rather than merely responding to it. Grounded in evidence, equity, and the voices of lived experience, we harness AI’s potential across the full continuum of care—from prevention and early intervention to treatment and recovery—to improve health outcomes and advance community well-being.

Guiding Principles for AI in Behavioral Health

To achieve our vision, the Alliance adheres to a single, unified set of principles that govern our efforts:

- **Evidence-Based Innovation:** We seek to ensure that AI applications are grounded in the best available scientific research and commit to continuous monitoring and evaluation to ensure effectiveness and safety.
- **Ethical Stewardship & Protection:** We urge that AI be “ethical by design,” implementing proactive strategies to advance benefits and protective safeguards to mitigate risks to privacy, safety, and consumer rights.
- **Advancement of Health Equity:** AI must be used to reduce disparities and improve access to care, ensuring that technological shifts support the health of the entire population, not just a few.
- **Workforce Augmentation:** We approach AI as a tool to enhance and support the behavioral health workforce—addressing burnout and expanding reach—rather than replacing the essential human element of care.
- **Systemic & Policy Leadership:** We focus our collective resources on the policy landscape and society at-large, ensuring behavioral health is a primary consideration in national AI regulation.
- **Unified Advocacy & Collaboration:** We partner with technology companies to co-create people-centered tools that maximize societal benefits and eliminate harm.
- **Shared Knowledge & Accountability:** We seek to secure commitments to develop common metrics, evaluation frameworks, and educational resources to ensure a consistent, high-standard approach to AI across all member organizations.