

April 15, 2026

Honorable Chairman John Hunt  
House Commerce & Consumer Affairs  
Granite Place Room 229  
1 Granite Pl, Concord, NH 03301

**RE: NAMI NH Support for SB 647**

Chairman Hunt and Committee Members:

On behalf of NAMI NH, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, I write in support of SB 647, authorizing the department of insurance to participate in a cooperative procurement group via an intergovernmental agreement for a prescription drug discount program.

Untreated mental health conditions can have grave impacts on a person and their loved ones, potentially leading to great losses in wellness, productivity, opportunity, and even the tragic loss of life. However, we know that with access to the right treatment, at the right time, in the right place, individuals living with mental health conditions can recover, manage ongoing symptoms, and lead happy, fulfilling lives within their community.

Recovery can look different for everyone, with different treatment methods working differently for every person and their unique symptoms. For many folks, proper medication can be an essential part of their treatment, mitigate ongoing symptoms, and enable positive lifetime outcomes.

Unfortunately, like other treatments and services throughout the healthcare system, we hear all too often that people struggle to afford the medications that keep them well. Considering new advancements in psychiatric medications and the unique interactions between individuals and different medications, oftentimes people may find a treatment that works for them, but is costly to maintain due to the medication being generally high cost, covered under a higher cost-sharing tier in their insurance plan, or not having a generic version on the market. This challenge is only exacerbated by the ongoing cost increases within the healthcare system.

For individuals and families who find themselves in this situation, they face an impossible decision – continue to pay for a medication they can't afford or discontinue the medication and potentially experience a return of symptoms, the worsening of their condition, and tragic future consequences.

*Find Help, Find Hope.*

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With this in mind, programs that can alleviate cost burden taking psychiatric medications can help them maintain their treatment and recovery and avoid decompensations that would be costly for the individual and the system as a whole. SB 647 provides an opportunity for the state to expand the availability of such programs for Granite Staters, creating safeguards for those in recovery and encouraging engagement with treatment for those who may currently be unable to afford it. As such, NAMI NH urges the committee to support the bill and recommend SB 647 Ought to Pass.

Sincerely,

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

Sam Hawkins

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<sup>1</sup> Mościcki, Eve K., ScD, MPH, et al, "Suicidality Is Associated With Medication Access Problems in Publicly Insured Psychiatric Patients," *J Clin Psychiatry* 2010;71(12):1657-1663; Mościcki, Eve & West, Joyce & Duffy, Farifteh & Rae, Donald & Rubio-Stipec, Maritza & Regier, Darrel. (2010), Gaps in continuity of care: Homelessness and incarceration among Medicaid psychiatric patients.