

## **Testimony in Support of HB704**

Dear Members of the House Health and Human Services Committee,

My name is Roger Desrosiers, and I am here today on behalf of AARP NH to express our strong support for HB704. This bill represents a critical investment in the well-being of older adults and caregivers in New Hampshire.

### **Why AARP Supports HB704**

AARP supports HB704 because it funds well-established programs that provide immediate assistance to families and help fill the gaps in New Hampshire's long-term service and support (LTSS) system. These programs are essential for enabling older adults to remain in their communities, which is not only beneficial for their well-being but also a wise use of resources.

### **Benefits for Older Adults and Caregivers**

Investing in programs that support older adults and caregivers can delay or avoid the need for more costly Long Term Support Services. The targeted programs under HB704 include:

- **Caregiver Respite Programs:** These provide respite services for Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (ADRD), offering much-needed relief to caregivers.
- **AmeriCorps Senior Volunteer Programs:** These include the Senior Companions, Foster Grandparent Program (FGP), and Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), which provide invaluable support to older adults.

### **Smart Investment for New Hampshire**

Funding these programs is a smart investment for New Hampshire. By enabling older adults to remain at home and in their communities, we can reduce the demand for more expensive nursing home care. For example, getting a ride to medical appointments or having access to respite care can mean the difference between remaining at home or needing institutional care. One program reported a 50% increase in requests for rides in the last year, highlighting the growing need for these services.

As a caregiver for over 15 years, I can personally attest to the need for respite services. It helps sustain the caregiver and helps maintain an older adult in their home as long as possible. My dad died of Alzheimer's at age 97.

In conclusion, HB704 is a crucial step towards supporting our older adults and caregivers, ensuring they have the resources they need to thrive in their communities. AARP NH urges you to support this bill and make this important investment in the future of New Hampshire.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Roger Desrosiers, Concord