



January 15, 2026

Chair Layon
House Executive Departments and Administration Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1636

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

For the record my name is Krysten Evans and I am the Director of Policy for ABLE NH. ABLE is a disability justice organization and we fight for the civil and human rights of people with disabilities in NH.

I write in support of HB 1636 because the decisions this state makes about revenue directly determine whether people with disabilities can live safely, independently, and with dignity.

People with disabilities rely on public systems more than most. These systems are not optional. Medicaid funded home and community based services, housing supports, transportation, workforce supports, and mental health services are what allow people with disabilities to live in their communities rather than in institutions. When these systems are underfunded, the consequences are immediate and severe. People sit on waitlists for years. Families are forced into crisis. Individuals lose housing, lose services, or lose their ability to work and participate in their communities.

In New Hampshire many adults with disabilities live on fixed or limited incomes. National data shows that working age adults with disabilities are more than twice as likely to live in poverty compared to people without disabilities. These realities mean that people with disabilities are hit hardest when public systems are stretched thin and when costs are pushed onto individuals and families instead of being addressed at the state level.

HB 1636 matters because it acknowledges a truth advocates have been raising for years. New Hampshire cannot meet its obligations to people with disabilities without confronting how we fund our shared responsibilities.

This bill does not raise taxes or prescribe outcomes. It requires the Department of Revenue Administration to study and publicly report on revenue options and, critically, to analyze how different approaches would impact residents across income levels. That kind of transparency is essential for disability justice. Policies that look neutral on paper can have very different impacts on people with disabilities, especially those who rent, rely on benefits, or need ongoing services to survive.

New Hampshire's long standing reliance on local funding and cost shifting has real consequences. When the state underfunds services, municipalities, nonprofits, families, and individuals are forced to fill the gaps. For people with disabilities, those gaps often mean fewer services, lower provider wages, staff shortages, and unstable housing. These are not abstract budget issues. They are life and death issues.

HB 1636 also requires the identification of exemptions or protections for low and moderate income residents. This is critical. Any serious discussion about revenue must center the people most likely to be harmed by poorly designed systems. People with disabilities must not be an afterthought in these conversations. This bill creates a structure to ensure they are not.

ABLE NH strongly believes that studying revenue options through an equity lens is not radical. It is responsible governance. It is how we ensure that people with disabilities are not left behind while the state continues to grow and change.

New Hampshire prides itself on independence and community. For people with disabilities, independence is only possible when the systems that support it are stable and adequately funded. HB 1636 is a necessary step toward that stability.

We urge the committee to support HB 1636 and allow this study to move forward so that future decisions are informed by data, transparency, and a clear understanding of how policy choices affect the lives of people with disabilities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten M. Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krysten M. Evans
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