



January 23, 2026

Chair Pauer
House Municipal and County Government Committee
Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1649

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, a statewide disability justice organization that works to protect and expand the civil and human rights of people with disabilities across New Hampshire. I write in strong opposition to House Bill 1649.

House Bill 1649 is a direct threat to the community partnerships that keep people with disabilities safe, housed, and supported in New Hampshire. This bill would severely limit how municipalities work with nonprofit organizations, despite the fact that nonprofits are often the primary providers of essential services when government systems fall short.

ABLE NH works with people with disabilities, families, caregivers, and service providers across the state. We see every day how municipal funding partnerships allow nonprofits to respond quickly and effectively to real needs. These are not optional services. They include housing stability, access to supports, crisis intervention, community integration, and basic health and safety. HB 1649 would disrupt these lifelines.

The bill attempts to frame these partnerships as improper "donations," ignoring the reality that nonprofit funding serves a clear and legitimate public purpose. Many of the services nonprofits provide cannot be reduced to narrowly defined, transactional contracts without stripping them of their effectiveness. Outreach, prevention, and stabilization work saves lives and reduces long term public costs, yet this bill treats that work as suspect.

HB 1649 also represents an alarming overreach into local control. Municipal leaders understand the needs of their communities better than the state legislature ever could. They are already accountable to voters, budgets, and existing laws. This bill replaces that accountability with rigid restrictions that prevent communities from responding to urgent and evolving needs.

The harm caused by this legislation will be immediate and measurable. When nonprofits lose municipal support, services are cut. Programs close. People fall through the cracks. The burden does not disappear. It shifts to emergency rooms, law enforcement, hospitals, and state systems that are already overwhelmed. This bill does not save taxpayer money. It delays solutions and increases human and fiscal costs.

Nonprofits are not operating without oversight. We are governed by boards, subject to extensive state and federal regulations, and accountable to the communities we serve. Municipal partnerships increase transparency and efficiency. HB 1649 undermines those safeguards by weakening the very organizations that deliver results.

For people with disabilities, the consequences are especially severe. When supports disappear, independence is lost. Families are pushed into crisis. Institutionalization becomes more likely. That outcome is not only harmful. It is contrary to New Hampshire's stated commitment to community based services and inclusion.

New Hampshire has a long history of valuing local decision making and community driven solutions. House Bill 1649 abandons those values. It replaces trust with suspicion and collaboration with constraint.

For these reasons, ABLE NH strongly urges the committee to oppose House Bill 1649.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

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
Director of Policy
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