



January 22, 2026

Honorable Members of the New Hampshire House of Representatives
State House
Concord, NH

Re: Opposition to HB 1649 – “An Act prohibiting certain tax dollars from being donated to non-profit organizations”

Dear Representatives,

On behalf of **Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County**, I am writing to express our **strong opposition to HB 1649**. While we respect the intent to ensure transparency and accountability in the use of taxpayer funds, this bill would have **severe and unintended consequences** for seniors, individuals with disabilities, and other vulnerable residents across our communities.

For decades, partnerships between municipalities and nonprofit organizations have been a **cornerstone of effective local governance**. Cities and towns often rely on trusted, community-based organizations like Meals on Wheels to deliver essential services efficiently and compassionately—services that local governments would otherwise have to provide themselves, at higher cost to taxpayers.

Meals on Wheels of Hillsborough County, for example, **350,000 nutritious meals each year to homebound seniors**, many of whom would face isolation, hunger, or institutionalization without our support. Local funding partnerships allow us to extend our reach, leverage volunteer capacity, and ensure that **no senior in our communities goes hungry**.

HB 1649, as written, would **forbid towns, cities, and villages from appropriating tax dollars to support nonprofit organizations**, effectively dismantling these longstanding collaborations. Even with the proposed exceptions for “competitive bidding” processes, the bill creates unnecessary administrative



barriers and uncertainty for local governments and nonprofits alike—jeopardizing programs that residents depend on every day.

We urge lawmakers to **recognize nonprofits as vital partners—not recipients of charity but providers of essential public services**. By prohibiting direct appropriations to nonprofits, this legislation risks cutting off lifelines for seniors, families, and low-income residents throughout New Hampshire.

In the spirit of collaboration and fiscal responsibility, we respectfully ask that you **vote “NO” on HB 1649** and instead explore solutions that strengthen accountability while preserving the successful partnerships that make our communities stronger.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to serving the people of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jon Eriquezzo'.

Jon Eriquezzo

President and CEO

603-424-9967 ext 100