



January 23, 2026

To Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee,

My name is Melissa Gallagher, and I serve as the Executive Director of the Grapevine Family & Community Resource Center, a small social service organization located in Antrim, NH, which serves towns in the Eastern Monadnock region. This past year, we served over 1,400 individuals from 18 New Hampshire towns with vital, no cost programs and services. I am writing to urge you to oppose House Bill 1649, *“Prohibiting certain tax dollars from being donated to non-profit organizations”*.

Town funding support is critical to our local non profit organization. Currently, 5 towns provide funding to the Grapevine and our Avenue A Teen Center as part of the town budget approval or warrant article process. And, as part of our request and reporting to each town, we deliver detailed statistics including numbers served and the type of services provided to town residents each year. Often, we are outspending town contributions with the amount of direct financial assistance we offer to their residents. This is in addition to the countless hours of no cost programs and services we offer to the public. The majority of individuals we serve are of low to mid-income. Public dollars to support our public programs are approved by voters at town meeting and vote each year.

If this bill were to pass, it would strip \$42,000 in municipal funding from the Grapevine and Avenue A, which represents over 7 percent of our annual budget and fills the often underfunded need for operational support. Less than a year ago we suffered the loss of critical federal dollars which supported our community health work to assist with housing, food, heat and other basic needs. State dollars continue to be under serious threat, and with this bill, we are now contending with towns and taxpayers being banned from designating funds to us, and denied that vote and choice. I am in strong opposition to this bill and I urge you not to support it.

Sincerely,

Melissa W. Gallagher
Executive Director