



3 North Spring Street, Suite 101, Concord, NH 03301
603 225-1947 · info@nhnonprofits.org
www.nhnonprofits.org

January 23, 2026

Re: Opposition to House Bill 1649

Dear Chairwoman Pauer and Members of the House Municipal and County Government Committee,

The NH Center for Nonprofits is New Hampshire's statewide association dedicated to strengthening and giving voice to the state's nonprofit sector through leadership, collaboration, and learning opportunities. We have serious concerns regarding HB 1649.

This bill would prohibit municipalities from using taxpayer funds to make direct appropriations or donations to nonprofit organizations—effectively eliminating a long-standing, flexible tool that communities use to support essential services

HB 1649 raises serious concerns for New Hampshire nonprofits that deliver essential, community-based services that no government entity or for-profit provider can replicate—such as family resource centers, programs serving older adults, food access programs, and local water quality monitoring, just to name a few. These organizations are deeply rooted in their communities and respond directly to local needs.

Currently, each community has its own democratic process—through town meetings, budgets, or warrant articles—to decide whether and how much to support these trusted partners. By eliminating direct municipal appropriations, the bill would limit local control, reduce flexibility, and undermine the “New Hampshire way” of addressing community needs through grassroots, nonprofit partnerships rather than top-down mandates.

While the bill allows exceptions for competitive grants, this process is often inaccessible to smaller, community-specific nonprofits that lack the resources or scale to compete—leaving many critical services at risk without a realistic alternative.

Finally, it is worth noting that the impact of the work in the community is often greater than the funds received by direct appropriations.

We strongly urge the committee to recommend HB 1649 as inexpedient to legislate, preserving the ability of towns and cities to support the vital work of nonprofits that strengthen our communities every day.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathleen D Reardon". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline.

Kathleen Reardon
CEO