



January 27, 2026

Honorable Chairman Alexander
NH House Housing Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1171

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1171. 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 am here today in strong support of House Bill 1171.

This bill is about one thing. Whether we allow bureaucratic failure to become a pathway to homelessness.

For thousands of Granite Staters, Social Security is the only income they have. There is no backup plan. No savings. No cushion. When those benefits are delayed, suspended, or disrupted, people immediately fall into crisis. Rent does not pause. Utility bills do not stop. Pharmacies do not provide medications for free. Landlords still issue eviction notices.

HB 1171 recognizes a fundamental truth. People should not lose their homes because of government delays they did not cause.

We regularly hear from people with disabilities and seniors who wait weeks or months for their benefits to resume after routine reviews, documentation requests, or administrative errors. During that time, they face impossible choices. Pay rent or buy groceries. Pay rent or refill lifesaving medications. Pay rent or keep the heat on. No one should be forced into these decisions, and no one should be evicted because of them.

Eviction is not just losing housing. It is losing stability, safety, dignity, health, and often access to care. For people with disabilities, eviction frequently results in hospitalization, institutionalization, and long-term homelessness. Once that spiral begins, it becomes extraordinarily difficult to recover. The human cost is immense, and the public cost is staggering.

A 90 day grace period is not radical. It is not excessive. It is humane. It provides a narrow window for people to resolve benefit disruptions, access emergency assistance, stabilize their finances, and stay housed. It prevents a temporary administrative failure from becoming a permanent life-altering catastrophe.

HB 1171 does not eliminate rent obligations. It does not shift responsibility. It simply recognizes reality. People cannot pay rent with money they have not received.

This bill reflects who we are as a state. It says that in New Hampshire, we do not allow people to be pushed into homelessness because of paperwork delays. We do not treat poverty as a moral failing. And we do not sacrifice human stability for bureaucratic efficiency.

Housing is healthcare. Housing is safety. Housing is dignity. Without it, everything else collapses.

HB 1171 is smart policy. It is fiscally responsible. And most importantly, it is morally right.

On behalf of ABLE NH and the thousands of Granite Staters we represent, I urge you to vote Ought to Pass on HB 1171.

Thank you for your time and your service.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Krysten M. Evans".

Krysten M. Evans
Director of Policy
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