



February 18, 2026

Honorable Chairman MacDonald  
NH House Health, Human Services & Elderly Affairs Committee  
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1794

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1794. For the record my name is Krysten Evans, and I serve as 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. Our mission is rooted in dignity, autonomy, privacy, and civil rights.

HB 1794 is not simply a study bill. It is a necessary act of accountability.

Recent Medicaid changes are not abstract policy shifts. They affect real people in our communities, people with disabilities, older adults, working families, and those who rely on Choices for Independence to remain in their homes rather than be forced into institutions. When coverage changes, when reimbursement rates shift, when federal funding is reduced, the consequences ripple outward into nonprofit health providers, into local budgets, and into the daily lives of Granite Staters.

For people with disabilities in New Hampshire, Medicaid is not a line item. It is survival. It is the difference between living at home or being forced into an institution. It is the personal care attendant who helps someone get out of bed in the morning. It is the direct support professional who ensures someone can work, participate in their community, and live with dignity. It is access to medication, therapy, and basic health care.

When Medicaid changes, people with disabilities feel it first and hardest.

If reimbursement rates shift, providers close their doors. If eligibility changes, people lose coverage. If federal funding is reduced, services shrink. Waitlists grow. Families burn out. People who have fought for years to live independently are pushed backward.

HB 1794 demands that we stop and look clearly at what is happening.

This bill requires a comprehensive review of how recent Medicaid changes have

affected access to care, nonprofit providers, the Choices for Independence waiver, and our state and local budgets. That review is not optional. It is an obligation. We cannot claim to value community integration while refusing to measure whether our policies are undermining it.

People with disabilities have spent decades fighting to move out of institutions and into their communities. That progress is fragile. If recent changes are destabilizing home and community based services, we must know now, not years from now when the harm is entrenched.

The cost of this study is modest. The cost of ignorance is devastating.

If we fail to examine the impact of these changes, we risk dismantling the very systems that allow people with disabilities to live with autonomy and dignity. Transparency protects people. Data protects people. Accountability protects people.

HB 1794 is about safeguarding independence, protecting community based care, and honoring the rights of Granite Staters with disabilities. I urge you to vote Ought to Pass.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

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  
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