



February 18, 2026

Honorable Chairman MacDonald
NH House Health, Human Service & Elderly Affairs Committee
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB 1760

Dear Honorable Chair and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1760. 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.

House Bill 1760 is about access. It is about whether working families, including people with disabilities, can actually afford the health care they rely on to survive and participate in their communities. It repeals harmful copay and premium requirements that create barriers to care under Medicaid, the Granite Advantage program, and the Children's Health Insurance Program.

For the people we represent, copayments are not small inconveniences. They are impossible choices. They are decisions between picking up a prescription and buying groceries. Between paying rent and keeping a doctor's appointment. Between staying stable and falling into crisis.

Many people with disabilities live on fixed or very limited incomes. Even a modest increase in prescription copayments can result in missed doses, delayed refills, and worsening health conditions. When people skip medications because they cannot afford the copay, the result is often emergency room visits, hospitalizations, or institutional care. That is not only cruel. It is fiscally irresponsible.

Premium requirements under Granite Advantage and CHIP function as a gatekeeper. They create paperwork hurdles and financial strain that disproportionately harm low income families, people with disabilities, and parents caring for children with complex medical needs. When coverage is lost over unpaid premiums or confusion about requirements, the consequences are immediate and severe.

Health care is not a luxury. It is foundational to employment, education, and

community living. If we say we want people to work, to raise families, to contribute to New Hampshire's economy, then we must ensure they can access the medications, therapies, and preventative care that make that possible.

House Bill 1760 restores a simple truth. Medicaid should be accessible. It should not be designed in ways that push people out or punish them for being poor.

From a disability rights perspective, this bill is about dignity and compliance with our values as a state. We have worked for decades to move people out of institutions and into their communities. We have fought for inclusive education, accessible transportation, and competitive employment. None of that matters if people cannot afford their prescriptions or lose coverage because of administrative barriers.

The appropriation included in this bill recognizes that we cannot balance budgets on the backs of low income people and people with disabilities. If there are funding shortfalls, the solution is not to erect new barriers to care. The solution is to fund the system responsibly.

ABLE NH urges you to pass House Bill 1760. Protect access to affordable health care. Remove barriers that harm working families. Stand with people with disabilities who are asking for stability, fairness, and the ability to live with health and dignity in our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten M. Evans". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

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