

# DISABILITY RIGHTS CENTER - NH

64 North Main Street, Suite 2, Concord, NH 03301-4913 • mail@drcnh.org • drcnh.org  
(603) 228-0432 • (800) 834-1721 voice or TTY • FAX: (603) 225-2077

February 24, 2026

**Via Electronic Mail Only**

Health Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee  
NH House of Representatives  
Granite Place, Room 158  
Concord, NH 03301

**RE: HB 1797, relative to eligibility for public assistance, including the New Hampshire employment program, family assistance program, and SNAP**

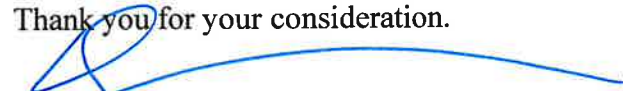
Dear Chairman MacDonald and Members of the Committee:

I am writing on behalf of the Disability Rights Center – NH (DRC-NH) to voice our opposition to HB 1797. If passed, HB 1797 will remove expanded categorical eligibility and increase the bureaucratic hurdles eligible individuals and families will need to navigate to maintain eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP). As a result, passage of HB 1797 will likely cause thousands of Granite Staters to lose access to essential food.

Passage of HB 1797 would be especially devastating for SNAP beneficiaries with disabilities who receive Supplemental Security Income (SSI), Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) or Aid to the Permanently and Totally Disabled (APTD). Currently, if a disabled person receiving SSI, SSDI or APTD lives in a household with other people who do not receive disability benefits, the whole household can fall within the expanded categorical eligibility criteria under 7 CFR 273.2(j)(2)(ii) (as long as total household income is under 200% of poverty). Eliminating categorical eligibility for these households will cause some households to lose SNAP benefits altogether. Even if their households remain eligible for SNAP, people who receive disability benefits would be subject to additional verification requirements to maintain their SNAP benefits – an extra burden that puts them at risk of losing access to food essential to their health and well-being.

For all the above reasons, I respectfully request that you vote HB 1797 inexpedient to legislate.

Thank you for your consideration.



Karen L. Rosenberg  
Policy Director

*Protection and Advocacy System for New Hampshire*