



NAMI New Hampshire Statement on Proposed Legislation Harmful to LGBTQI Youth
(February 24, 2022)

Concord, NH — NAMI New Hampshire is extremely concerned by legislation put forward in the current session that is harmful to the mental health and wellbeing of LGBTQI youth in our state. These bills include HB 1180 (relative to state recognition of biological sex), HB 1077 (repealing the prohibition on conversion therapy for minors), and HB 1651 (adding sexual reassignment to the definition of child abuse) – all of which NAMI NH opposes.

NAMI NH applauds the NH House Children and Family Law Committee for taking immediate action to kill HB 1651 by voting the bill inexpedient to legislate (ITL). HB 1180 and HB 1077 remain in the House Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee. Both bills have had public hearings and now await committee action. The longer this proposed legislation stays in committee, the greater potential for it to cause psychological harm to LGBTQI youth.

Studies indicate a high risk for depression, suicide attempts and suicide death for transgender youth and young adults. Emerging research demonstrates that transgender and gender non-conforming youth and young adults are likely to attempt suicide at significantly higher rates than their peers in the general population. NAMI NH is committed to addressing suicide as a public health issue and reducing the incidence of suicidal ideation, attempts, and deaths for all people in New Hampshire.

According to The Trevor Project's National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2021, affirming transgender and nonbinary youth is associated with lower rates of suicide attempts. Additionally, LGBTQ youth with access to community spaces that affirmed their gender identity and sexual orientation reported lower rates of suicide attempts.

NAMI New Hampshire's mission is to improve the lives of all Granite Staters affected by mental illness and suicide. Our community members who identify as LGBTQI often face daily discrimination and lack family support – both factors can increase risk for mental health problems including suicidality. Support from family members, friends, colleagues, legislators, policy makers, and community members is critical.

NAMI NH stands firm in our commitment to support LGBTQI youth and young adults – this includes opposing harmful legislation and offering hope and help always.

Visit [NAMINH.org/LGBTQIA](https://naminh.org/LGBTQIA) for mental health resources specifically curated to support the LGBTQI community.



NAMI National Statement on Rise of State Policies Harming LGBTQI Youth

(February 24, 2022)

Arlington, VA — Following recent discriminatory actions at the state level that would harm LGBTQI youth mental health, the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) today released the following statement from its CEO, Daniel H. Gillison Jr.:

“NAMI strongly opposes any policy or legislation that limits or denies access to medical or mental health care or education based on someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity. Our Alliance is all too aware of the additional barriers LGBTQI individuals already face when accessing mental health care. And while there’s a higher prevalence of mental health conditions among LGBTQI youth and adults, only half received the mental health treatment they needed.

“That is why this latest trend of state policymakers working to impose harmful policies targeted at LGBTQI youth — including restricting discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity in schools and limiting access to gender-affirming treatment for transgender youth — is so worrying. These actions will undoubtedly increase discrimination against LGBTQI youth and restrict access to needed support and medical treatments, directly posing a risk to their mental health.”

Anti-LGBTQI policies and attitudes have a documented negative impact on mental health. The Trevor Project’s [2021 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health](#) found that 42% of LGBTQI youth seriously considered attempting suicide in the past year, including more than half of transgender and nonbinary youth.

“NAMI envisions a world where all people affected by mental health conditions live healthy, fulfilling lives supported by a community that cares,” Gillison said. “To LGBTQI youth and adults across the country during this challenging and overwhelming time, please always know that NAMI is here to support you. You are seen. You are loved. You are not alone.”

The NAMI Board of Directors Resolution Against LGBTQ Discrimination can be found [here](#). More information about LGBTQI mental health can be found at <https://www.nami.org/Your-Journey/Identity-and-Cultural-Dimensions/LGBTQI>.