



April 30, 2024

Honorable Chairman John Hunt
House Commerce and Consumer Affairs Committee
Legislate Office Building Room 302-304
North State St., Concord, NH 03301

RE: NAMI NH Support of SB 555

Dear Chairman Hunt and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Holly Stevens, and I am the Director of Public Policy at NAMI New Hampshire, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI NH is a non-profit, grassroots organization whose mission is to improve the lives of all people impacted by mental illness and suicide through support, education and advocacy. On behalf of NAMI NH, I am here today to speak in support of SB 555 relative to receipt of pharmaceutical rebates by insurers and pharmacy benefits managers.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Center for Health Statistics released a data brief in June 2023 regarding adults who did not take medications as prescribed to reduce the out-of-pocket costs. The CDC found that 8.2 percent of adults aged 18-64 reported not taking their medications as prescribed due to the cost. This number rose to 20 percent for individuals who have a disability. Additionally, 18 percent of adults who reported their health to be fair or poor did not take medication as prescribed due to the cost of the medication. Therefore, those in most need of medication to treat their health conditions are forgoing their medications due to cost.

At NAMI NH, we have heard from many Granite Staters who are not able to afford their meds and resort to skipping doses, taking reduced doses, and delaying filling their medication due to their inability to afford their medications. This results in an increase of symptoms and could lead to costly hospitalization that would be unnecessary if the medications were more affordable.

SB 555 requires insurers and Pharmacy Benefit Managers to share at least 50 percent of all rebates they receive with insured individuals at the point of sale, thus reducing the out-of-pocket cost for medications. The sharing of these rebates will make

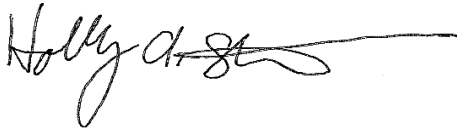
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medications more affordable. encouraging more people to take their medications as prescribed and potentially leading to a decrease in negative health outcomes.

For these reasons, NAMI NH urges the committee recommend ought to pass on SB 555.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly A. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

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