



January 21, 2025

Chairman Alexander
House Committee on Housing
Subject: Testimony in Opposition of NH House Bill 60

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Opposition to HB60. For the record, my name is Krysten Evans and I am the Director of Policy for ABLE NH. ABLE is a disability justice organization and we are a non partisan, non profit organization that fights for the civil and human rights of children and adults with disabilities.

As a disability justice organization dedicated to advancing the rights and dignity of individuals with disabilities, we strongly oppose House Bill 60. This bill, which seeks to amend the termination of tenancy laws in New Hampshire, poses significant threats to the housing stability and well-being of individuals with disabilities across the state.

House Bill 60 proposes to allow landlords to terminate tenancy at the expiration of the lease term without cause, effectively eliminating vital protections for tenants, including those with disabilities. This change would disproportionately impact individuals with disabilities, who already face significant barriers to accessing safe and affordable housing.

Research consistently demonstrates the challenges that individuals with disabilities encounter in securing stable housing. According to a report by the Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law (2018), individuals with disabilities are more likely to experience housing discrimination, limited housing options, and financial instability, placing them at heightened risk of homelessness and housing instability.

Furthermore, individuals with disabilities often rely on the stability of long-term leases to establish and maintain supportive networks and access necessary services within their communities. Abrupt terminations of tenancy without cause could disrupt these vital support systems, exacerbating the already considerable challenges faced by individuals with disabilities.

House Bill 60 undermines the principles of fairness and equity by disproportionately impacting marginalized communities, including individuals with disabilities. It threatens to exacerbate housing insecurity and homelessness among some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

In opposing House Bill 60, we urge policymakers to consider the human impact of this legislation on individuals with disabilities and prioritize the preservation of housing stability and security for all residents of New Hampshire.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krysten Evans". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krysten Evans

Krysten@ABLENH.org

Source:

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law. (2018). Locked Out 2018: Estimates of Homelessness Among Individuals with Serious Mental Illness.

<https://www.bazelon.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Locked-Out-2018-Estimates-of-Homelessness-Among-Individuals-with-Serious-Mental-Illness.pdf>