



February 11, 2025

Chairman Innis

Senate Commerce Committee

Subject: Testimony in Support of New Hampshire Senate Bill 279

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in Support of SB 279. 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.

This initiative is crucial for addressing the significant housing challenges faced by individuals with disabilities in our state.

New Hampshire is currently experiencing a housing crisis that disproportionately affects individuals with disabilities. People with disabilities encounter numerous obstacles in securing appropriate housing, including financial constraints and persistent discrimination. The shortage of affordable housing is especially burdensome, as individuals with disabilities often have limited income.

Additionally, despite legal protections, reports indicate that people with disabilities are most likely to face housing discrimination, including refusal to rent and denial of reasonable accommodations (New Hampshire Legal Assistance).

Senate Bill 279 proposes the establishment of the Partners in Housing Program, which will offer funding to municipalities and counties to support the development of affordable housing. This program will encourage the creation of new housing units, provide resources for innovative housing solutions, and address the economic challenges preventing individuals with disabilities from securing stable housing.

By focusing on increasing affordable housing, this program will benefit the disability community by reducing barriers to safe and sustainable living environments.

The establishment of the Partners in Housing Program is not merely a legislative action; it is a commitment to uphold the dignity and rights of individuals with disabilities in New Hampshire. By supporting Senate Bill 279, we take a significant step toward ensuring that all residents, regardless of their abilities, have access to safe and affordable housing.

Thank you for considering this testimony. We urge you to vote in favor of Senate Bill 279 to address the pressing housing needs of our disability community.

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

Sources:

New Hampshire Legal Assistance. "People with Disabilities Most Likely to Face Housing Discrimination." Fair Housing Project, 22 Mar. 2021, <https://fairhousing-nh.org/fair-housing-nh-blog/people-with-disabilities-most-likely-to-face-housing-discrimination>.