



*Towards self-sufficiency...*

## **NH Local Welfare Administrators Association**

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April 26, 2021

Honorable Harold French, Chair  
Commerce Committee  
NH State House  
Remote Room #100  
Concord, NH 03301

**Re: Opposition of HB 227 allowing landlords to evict solely based on time of lease and without current longstanding court authority to consider other circumstances.**

Dear Honorable Chairman French and Committee Members,

The NH Local Welfare Administrators Association (NHLWAA) is a professional non-profit organization that educates and supports our municipal members to foster compliant, humanitarian and fiscally responsible assistance practices when assisting NH residents with NH RSA 165 statutorily obligated basic needs.

NHLWAA is respectfully submitting this letter to share information and oppose HB 227. Unless this change to current housing rental law practice is opposed, the proposed legislation will increase the homeless population by dramatically changing the current standard for eviction to time of lease without any other considerations.

NH RSA 165 indicates "Whenever a person in any town is poor and unable to support himself, he shall be relieved and maintained by the overseers of public welfare of such town." Unless opposed, HB 227 will foster the need for additional taxpayer funded municipal local welfare assistance to relieve increased evictions caused by its passage.

As you are aware, initiatives to minimize homelessness are ongoing throughout our state and many come at a financial cost. However, this proposed legislation is contrary to state initiatives to minimize homelessness and at a cost to municipal property taxpayers and family stability, which has short and longer term social and financial ripple effects. Unless opposed, HB 227 will increase overall housing insecurity in NH at a time when our citizens are already challenged to locate and maintain affordable housing, including recovering from financial distress.

NHLWAA hopes this letter clarifies our concerns and urges you to oppose HB 277 for the cost savings and humanitarian reasons provided. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully yours,

Todd M. Marsh  
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