



Towards self-sufficiency...

NH Local Welfare Administrators Association

c/o Dennehy & Bouley LLC
17 Depot Street, Suite #3
Concord, NH 03301
Telephone: 603-228-2118

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Edward Gordon, Chair
Judiciary Committee
Legislative Office Building, Room 208
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Support of **HB 1291** prohibits discrimination against tenants holding certain vouchers for purposes of renting dwellings.

Dear Honorable Chair Gordon 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 residents with NH RSA 165 statutorily obligated basic needs.

NHLWAA respectfully submits this letter as testimony to support HB 1291, as its passage is reasonable to landlords, increases methods of housing payment fairness, increases housing options for residents statewide and is fiscally responsible to municipal property taxpayers.

The ability for apartment applicants with Housing Choice Vouchers, equal to market rates being sought by landlords, to be equally considered without lowering other criteria standards, is a fair, pragmatic and fiscally responsible measure to minimize housing insecurity and homelessness throughout our state.

New Hampshire RSA 165:1 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." HB 1291 will lessen the need for taxpayer funded municipal local welfare assistance and taxpayer funded state assistance to remedy the consequences of housing insecurity and homelessness.

As you are aware, initiatives to minimize homelessness are ongoing throughout our state and many come at a financial cost. This measured approach increases the method of housing payments without decreasing the payment amounts sought and maintains an owner's/landlord's legal right to choose applicants based on already existing criteria.

We hope our shared information is helpful and urge you to support HB 1291 for the cost savings and humanitarian reasons provided. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully yours,

Todd M. Marsh
NHLWAA President
603 332-3505
info@nhlwaa.org