



*Towards maximum self-sufficiency...*

## NH Local Welfare Administrators Association

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The Honorable James Gray, Chair,  
Legislative Office Building, Room 103  
107 North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Support of **SB 110** that clarifies residency, for municipal local welfare purposes, for hospitals, treatment programs or emergency housing sheltering, including motels, used for emergency housing, when paid for by assistance provider agencies and organizations.

Dear Honorable Chair Gray and Committee Members,

The New Hampshire 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 165:1 statutorily obligated basic needs. Municipal Local Welfare is a valuable expert social service voice and resource to decision makers within town and city halls throughout New Hampshire.

NHLWAA respectfully submits this letter as additional testimony to support SB 110, as its passage will establish a common ground, fair and equitable agreement on residency in relation to hospitals, treatment programs and emergency temporary housing services and placements outside of a municipality of origin. Passage will foster increased municipal support for temporary emergency housing and other supportive services, by clarifying residency liability to the municipality of origin.

Clarification of residency, for local welfare purposes, will increase municipal liability fairness while continuing to comply with humanitarian obligations, indicated in RSA 165:1. The clarifying humanitarian safeguard language in the bill indicates assistance needs to be "provided to meet basic needs of transient individuals or residents of other municipalities." Also, "Municipalities shall communicate and coordinate assistance options with each other, including reimbursements from municipalities of origin (RSA 165:20-a), when it is determined unreasonable for the person to physically return to the municipality of origin due to transportation, timing of need for assistance or residency is unclear."

As you are aware, initiatives to increase emergency housing services throughout our state are often met with concern for increased financial liability for host municipalities. This clarification continues to honor municipal legal and humanitarian obligations, increases municipal collaboration efforts, increases provider services, and decreases concerns for financial liability to the host municipality.

We hope our shared information is helpful. We are available to answer any questions you may have.

Respectfully yours,

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