



NH Local Welfare Administrators Association

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Towards maximum self-sufficiency...

January 16, 2024

The Honorable Len Turcotte, Chair
Legislative Office Building, Room 301
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Support of **HB 1544** relative to indemnification for municipalities adopting policies to address homelessness.

Dear Honorable Chair Turcotte 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 HB 1544. This common ground initiative's passage will increase emergency services for the unhoused, including temporary emergency housing options, by allowing municipalities the option to designate public property areas to aid and/or provide temporary shelter for the unhoused with minimized liability for these efforts.

This initiative is an optional one prong to a multi-pronged approach to problem solve multi-faceted challenges.

HB 1544 maintains local control by allowing, but not mandating, municipalities to designate areas of minimized liability to provide temporary sheltering services for our unhoused in need.

Initiatives to increase emergency housing services throughout our state are often met with concern for mandates and increased costs. This humanitarian and cost effective expansion of current law increases emergency housing service options throughout our state by decreasing concerns for financial liability.

Support for HB 1544 is a low hanging fruit solution. While other helping initiatives are debated for their complexities, I am confident we can agree HB 1544 simply makes solution-finding sense.

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

Respectfully yours,

Todd M Marsh

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