



Representative Lynn XXXX, Chair  
House Judiciary Committee

**RE: HB 1115** – relative to relative to the termination of tenancy at the expiration of the tenancy or lease term.

Dear Chairman Lynn and Members of the House Judiciary Committee,

My name is Vanessa Blais, and I serve as the Director of Policy and Planning for the New Hampshire Council on Developmental Disabilities (DD Council). I am providing testimony on behalf of the DD Council membership, which believes this bill would have a negative impact on the disability community.

According to the most recent University of New Hampshire Institute on Disability (UNH IOD) Disability Compendium, over 12% of New Hampshire residents are currently living with a disability. It is more essential than ever to continue to support policy that increases inclusion and enhances the lives of the state's disabled residents.

In 2005, the New Hampshire Supreme Court **unanimously** decided that holdover leases, the type being described in House Bill 1115, still protected tenants from eviction without cause. HB 1115 would go completely against this, again, **unanimous** NH Supreme Court Decision. Overturning this decision would jeopardize access to stable housing, which is fundamental to the health and well-being of people with disabilities and their families. It would create a door to discriminate against those who acquire a disability or experience an increase in disability during their tenancy.

According to the National Council on Disability, Granite Staters living with disabilities face eviction at 2 to 3 times higher rate than non-disabled Granite Staters. Eliminating good cause protections would greatly increase this eviction rate disparity.

During the state's historic housing crisis, it is more important than ever to secure the rights of disabled people to maintain stable and safe housing. Adding to the

number of ways in which Grante Staters can become housing insecure, will only further limit the housing opportunities for those who already under the best of circumstances are at a significant disadvantage.

Our Council, by law is comprised of at least 60% people with developmental disabilities and parents or guardians of people with developmental disabilities. These members are volunteers advocating for disability justice by identifying the barriers to leading inclusive and integrated lives of choice. Thank you for your consideration,

Vanessa Blais  
Director of Policy and Planning, NHCDD