

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

**February 8, 2022**

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**REPORT OF COMMITTEE**

**The Committee on Health, Human Services and Elderly  
Affairs to which was referred HB 1526-FN,**

**AN ACT relative to income eligibility for in and out  
medical assistance. Having considered the same, report  
the same with the recommendation that the bill OUGHT  
TO PASS.**

**Rep. Kendall Snow**

**FOR THE COMMITTEE**

## COMMITTEE REPORT

Committee:	<b>Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs</b>
Bill Number:	<b>HB 1526-FN</b>
Title:	<b>relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.</b>
Date:	<b>February 8, 2022</b>
Consent Calendar:	<b>CONSENT</b>
Recommendation:	<b>OUGHT TO PASS</b>

### STATEMENT OF INTENT

This bill will repeal one paragraph (Chapter 91:424) of the 2021 budget law. That section suspended, for the current biennium, Chapter 39:1 of 2020, which required the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the income eligibility standard for “in an out” medical assistance” which has not been adjusted for thirty years. This bill enables certain uninsured, low income persons with ongoing and overwhelming medical expenses to receive assistance after certain “spend downs” are deducted.

Vote 19-2.

Rep. Kendall Snow  
FOR THE COMMITTEE

Original: House Clerk  
Cc: Committee Bill File

## CONSENT CALENDAR

Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

**HB 1526-FN**, relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance. **OUGHT TO PASS.**

Rep. Kendall Snow for Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. This bill will repeal one paragraph (Chapter 91:424) of the 2021 budget law. That section suspended, for the current biennium, Chapter 39:1 of 2020, which required the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the income eligibility standard for “in an out” medical assistance” which has not been adjusted for thirty years. This bill enables certain uninsured, low income persons with ongoing and overwhelming medical expenses to receive assistance after certain “spend downs” are deducted. **Vote 19-2.**

Original: House Clerk

Cc: Committee Bill File

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS

EXECUTIVE SESSION on Bill # HB1526-FN

**BILL TITLE:** An Act relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

**DATE:** 2/8/2022

**LOB ROOM:** 210-11

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**MOTION:**

OTP

Moved by Rep. Snow Seconded by Rep. McMahon Vote: 19-2

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**CONSENT CALENDAR:**  YES  NO

**Minority Report?**  Yes  No If yes, author, Rep: \_\_\_\_\_ Motion \_\_\_\_\_

Respectfully submitted: \_\_\_\_\_ baf \_\_\_\_\_  
Rep. Beth Folsom, Clerk

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
OFFICE OF THE HOUSE CLERK



9/28/2021 11:15:01 AM  
Roll Call Committee Registers  
Report

2022 SESSION

**Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs**

Bill #: HB1526-FN      Motion: OTP      AM #: \_\_\_\_\_      Exec Session Date: 2/8/2022

<u>Members</u>	<u>YEAS</u>	<u>Nays</u>	<u>NV</u>
Pearson, Mark A. Chairman	Y		
Layon, Erica J. Vice Chairman	Y		
McMahon, Charles E.	Y		
Acton, Dennis F.	Y		
Gay, Betty I.	Y		
Cushman, Leah P.		N	
Folsom, Beth A. Clerk	Y		
Kelsey, Niki	Y		
King, Bill C.	Y		
Renzullo,	Y		
DeLemus, Susan		N	
Weber, Lucy M.	Y		
Mackay, James R.	Y		
Snow, Kendall A.	Y		
Knirk, Jerry L.	Y		
Salloway, Jeffrey C.	Y		
Cannon, Gerri D.	Y		
Nutter-Upham, Frances E.	Y		
Schapiro, Joe	Y		
Woods, Gary L.	Y		
Merchant, Gary	Y		
<b>TOTAL VOTE:</b>	19	2	

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, HUMAN SERVICES AND ELDERLY AFFAIRS**

**PUBLIC HEARING on Bill # 1526-FN**

**BILL TITLE:** An Act relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

**DATE:** 01/25/2022

**ROOM:** LOB 210-211

**Time Public Hearing Called to Order: 11:02am**

**Time Adjourned: 11:35am**

**Committee Members: Reps. M. Pearson, Layon, Folsom, Acton, Cushman, Kelsey, Gay, B. King, Kofalt, MacKay, DeLemus, Weber, Knirk, Salloway, Snow, Cannon, Schapiro, Woods and Merchant,**

**TESTIMONY**

**Representative Snow**

- Introduced the bill
- In & Out Medicaid
- spend down requirements now down to \$591 to be raised to \$901
- this was passed previously but suspended in the 2021-22 budget.
- bill repeals the suspension

**\*Holly Stevens, NAMI, support**

- Maggie Pritchard, CEO Lakes Region Mental Health Center, support - written testimony

**Dawn Landry, Henry Lipman, NH Medicaid**

- reviewed numbers of people in this level program
- reviewed fiscal note
- \$1.9mill should be 3.8mill and 5.4 mill is a midpoint
- Homes are not included in income & Assets
- \$10.8mill is full amount, including federal

Respectfully submitted,

Rep. Beth Folsom, Clerk



# House Remote Testify

## Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee Testify List for Bill HB1526 on 2022-01-25

Support: 6 Oppose: 1 Neutral: 0 Total to Testify: 0

[Export to Excel](#)

<u>Name</u>	<u>City, State</u> <u>Email Address</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Representing</u>	<u>Position</u>	<u>Testifying</u>	<u>Non-Germane</u>	<u>Signed Up</u>
Ulmer Dorsch, Karen	Sanbornton, NH karenbobd@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/21/2022 2:48 PM
Rosenwald, Cindy	Concord, NH cindy.rosenwald@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	SD 13	Support	No	No	1/21/2022 5:03 PM
Lane, Connie	Concord, NH nhlanes@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Merrimack House District 12	Support	No	No	1/21/2022 5:26 PM
O'Neill, Nan	SALISBURY, NH raptorko@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2022 1:19 PM
Hackmann, Kent	Andover, NH hackmann@uidaho.edu	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2022 2:09 PM
Nardino, Marie	Andover, NH mdnardino@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2022 4:17 PM
Hamer, Heidi	Manchester, NH heidi.hamer@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2022 5:16 PM
Almy, Susan	Lebanon, NH Susan.almy@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/22/2022 8:40 PM
Thompson, Adam	Tuftsboro, NH oldcrowthompson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 8:03 AM
Glass, Jonathan	Cornish, NH jglass1063@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 9:23 AM
Crandell-Glass, Jane	Cornish, NH bostonjane@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 9:34 AM
Crichton, Lucy	Concord, NH Lucycrichton@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 12:07 PM
Ropp, Elizabeth	Manchester, NH arunareiki@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 2:48 PM

Oxenham, Lee	Plainfield, NH leeoxenham@comcast.net	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 6:07 PM
Grossi, Anne	Bedford, NH adgrossi7982@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 6:28 PM
Chase, Wendy	Rollinsford, NH wendy.chase@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/23/2022 7:43 PM
Petrusewicz, Carol	Rochester, NH clmcc2befree@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Oppose	No	No	1/23/2022 11:09 PM
Lucas, Janet	Campton, NH janluca1953@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 7:33 AM
Doherty, David	Pembroke, NH ddoherty0845@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:29 AM
Simpson, Alexis	Exeter, NH alexis.simpson@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Rockingham District 36	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:30 AM
Meuse, David	Portsmouth, NH David.Meuse@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Rockingham 29	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:43 AM
Bouchard, Donald	MANCHESTER, NH donaldjbouchard@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:21 AM
Hakken-Phillips, Mary	Hanover, NH mhp4nhrep@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:33 AM
Chase, Susan	ANDOVER, NH SRFCHASE@GMAIL.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:19 AM
Darling, Gisela	Andover, NH darlinggi@tds.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:45 AM
Crocker, Richard	Meredith, NH richcrocker@metrocast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:57 AM
levesque, cassandra	Barrington, NH cassandra.levesque@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 11:12 AM
Paschell, Susan	Bow, NH spaschell@dupontgroup.com	A Lobbyist	NH Community Behavioral Health Association	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 11:37 AM
Osmun, Roger	Wilmot, NH rosmun@wcbh.org	A Member of the Public	West Central Behavioral Health	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:04 PM
Nelson, Aaron	CLAREMONT, NH anelson@wcbh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:08 PM
Adler, Brooke	Lebanon, NH brookeadler@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:12 PM

Metcalfe, Willard	Claremont, NH wmetcalfe@wcbh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:12 PM
Palmer, Caitlin	Warner, NH cbpalmer@wcbh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:21 PM
Thelen, Nicholas	Lebanon, NH nthelen@wcbh.org	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 12:23 PM
Hartzell, Carrie	Claremont, NH clbogle@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 1:22 PM
Campbell, Kay	Epsom, NH kkcampbell43@yahoo.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 1:27 PM
Sherman, Senator	SD 24, NH jennifer.horgan@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	SD24	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 1:28 PM
Campbell, Karen	Epsom, NH klynncampbell50@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 1:56 PM
Lewis, Elizabeth	Nashua, NH ecop.lewis@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 2:11 PM
Soendregard, Melissa	Lebanon, NH mapotter28@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 2:32 PM
Moulton, Caroline	Andover, NH carolinemoulton@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 2:36 PM
Pugh, BARBARA	Amherst, NH barbara.pugh@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 2:46 PM
Williamson, Doug	Hanover, NH dewilliamson62@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 3:46 PM
Donnelly, Ryan	Hudson, NH rdonnelly@gsil.org	A Member of the Public	Granite State Independent Living	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 5:32 PM
Wright, Jessica	Nashua, NH JessAJean@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 5:33 PM
Robinson, Ellis	Grantham, NH EllisMMRobinson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 6:07 PM
Berry, Jake	Concord, NH jberry@new-futures.org	A Lobbyist	New Futures	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:00 PM
Raspiller, Cindy	Mont Vernon, NH raspicl@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:10 PM
Brown, Howard	Mont Vernon, NH hobro39@hotmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:14 PM

Twombly, Cynthia	Grantham, NH Cynthia_twombly@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 8:49 PM
Frayse, Michael	Hampstead, NH mikefraysse@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:00 PM
Wells, Ken	Andover, NH kenwells3@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 9:42 PM
Stoddard, Kristine	Bow, NH kstoddard@bistatepca.org	A Lobbyist	Bi-State Primary Care Association	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:03 PM
Dontonville, Roger	Enfield, NH rdontonville@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:05 PM
Hamblet, Joan	Portsmouth, NH jhamblet4@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:14 PM
Findley, Sally	Grantham, NH findley.se@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 10:51 PM
Broshek, Mary Anne	Andover, NH mabandsadie@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/24/2022 11:08 PM
Tucker, Katherine	Wilmot, NH katherine.s.tucker@valley.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 6:00 AM
Pidgeon, Dawna	Enfield, NH dawna.pidgeon@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 6:06 AM
Courtney, Jo-Ellen	Enfield, NH jecourtney820@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:04 AM
DeJoie, John	Concord, NH jdejoie@karnerbbluestrategies.com	A Lobbyist	National Association of Social Workers-NH Chapter	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 8:40 AM
Cook, Barbara	Canterbury, NH Bdc7@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 9:27 AM
perez, maria	milford, NH mariaeli63@gmail.com	An Elected Official	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 9:30 AM
Douville, Linda	Grantham, NH Lmdanp@aol.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 10:15 AM
Stinson, Benjamin	CONCORD, NH benrkstinson@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:02 AM
Rich, Martha	Enfield, NH martha.rich@thet.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:05 AM
Hayes, Randy	Canterbury, NH rcompostr@gmail.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:17 AM

Ford, Debra	Enfield, NH DEBRA@FORDBK.COM	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:43 AM
Smith, Nancy	Enfield, NH nancysmith8@me.com	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:49 AM
Dolkart, Vivian	Grantham, NH viviandolkart@comcast.net	A Member of the Public	Myself	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 1:09 PM
Schuett, Dianne	Pembroke, NH dianne.schuett@leg.state.nh.us	An Elected Official	Merr. Dist. 20	Support	No	No	1/25/2022 11:20 PM

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Mark Pearson, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 210  
33 North State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: New Futures Support for HB 1526-FN (relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance),

Dear Representative Pearson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

New Futures appreciates the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1526-FN, relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance. New Futures is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization that advocates, educates and collaborates to improve the health and wellness of all New Hampshire residents. In this role, we work extensively with policy makers, service providers and families to improve overall public health and health equity across the Granite State.

New Futures stands strongly in support of HB 1526-FN as it aims to increase access to health care coverage through New Hampshire's "In & Out Medical Assistance" program, which supports certain individuals in need. The "In & Out" program, also referred to as the Medicaid spenddown, plays a critical role extending health insurance coverage to individuals who exceed Medicaid's income limits but can't afford their medical bills. This population includes many individuals who have recently gained employment or increased working hours but are still trying to establish greater financial stability.

Currently, single adults earning more than \$591 per month qualify for the program once they have incurred a certain amount of medical expenses; and the income limit is \$675 for a family of two adults. These income limits, which haven't increased in about 30 years, rank among the lowest in the country.

As proposed, HB 1526-FN would increase those income limits \$901 and \$1,047, respectively. These increases, as originally passed into law in 2020 but suspended in the 2021 budget, would expand eligibility to another 1,000 households. For these individuals and families, "In and Out Medical Assistance" can be a lifeline, helping them to maintain access to needed health care and mental health and substance use treatment, among other services, despite changes in income and work status.

For these reasons, New Futures respectfully requests that the Committee recommend this bill Ought to Pass. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,



Jake Berry  
Vice President of Policy  
New Futures

**Archived:** Friday, January 28, 2022 11:14:18 AM  
**From:** [Jake Berry](#)  
**Sent:** Monday, January 24, 2022 8:13:17 PM  
**To:** ~[House Health Human Services and Elderly Affairs](#)  
**Subject:** New Futures HB 1526 testimony  
**Importance:** Normal  
**Attachments:**  
2022-01-25 New Futures testimony HB 1526, In & Out Medical.pdf ;

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Good evening Rep. Pearson and Honorable Members of the Committee, this is Jake Berry from New Futures. I hope you're all having a terrific week.

Please see the attached testimony (also pasted below) in support of HB 1526, relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance. We strongly support this bill as we believe that raising the income limits will make the vital "In & Out" program available to more people, resulting in increased access to critical health care and greater financial stability.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thanks again!

**Jake Berry**  
Vice President of Policy  
[New Futures](#)  
One Eagle Square, Suite 400 | Concord, NH  
603-493-8781  
[NewFuturesNH](#) | [@NewFuturesNH](#)

January 25, 2022

The Honorable Mark Pearson, Chair  
House Health and Human Services Committee  
Legislative Office Building, Room 210  
33 North State Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: New Futures Support for HB 1526-FN (relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance),

Dear Representative Pearson and Honorable Members of the Committee,

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New Futures stands strongly in support of HB 1526-FN as it aims to increase access to health care coverage through New Hampshire's "In & Out Medical Assistance" program, which supports certain individuals in need. The "In & Out" program, also referred to as the Medicaid spenddown, plays a critical role extending health insurance coverage to individuals who exceed Medicaid's income limits but can't afford their medical bills. This population includes many individuals who have recently

gained employment or increased working hours but are still trying to establish greater financial stability.

Currently, single adults earning more than \$591 per month qualify for the program once they have incurred a certain amount of medical expenses; and the income limit is \$675 for a family of two adults. These income limits, which haven't increased in about 30 years, rank among the lowest in the country.

As proposed, HB 1526-FN would increase those income limits \$901 and \$1,047, respectively. These increases, as originally passed into law in 2020 but suspended in the 2021 budget, would expand eligibility to another 1,000 households. For these individuals and families, "In and Out Medical Assistance" can be a lifeline, helping them to maintain access to needed health care and mental health and substance use treatment, among other services, despite changes in income and work status.

For these reasons, New Futures respectfully requests that the Committee recommend this bill Ought to Pass. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have questions or need additional information.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jake Berry", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Jake Berry  
Vice President of Policy  
New Futures

3



## Lakes Region Mental Health Center

(Written) TESTIMONY ON HB 1526

HOUSE HHS COMMITTEE – January 25, 2022

My name is Sunshine Fisk. I am the Chief Financial Officer of Lakes Region Mental Health Center. I have worked at two mental health centers and have been in NH Community Mental Health Finance since 2005. Additionally, I also chair the quarterly meetings for all of the NH CMHCs.

I am writing this statement in strong support of HB 1526, which will lift the suspension of the 2020 law that increased the Medicaid spenddown amount for the first time in 30 years. My statement is endorsed by the CFOs of all ten NH community mental health centers.

Since 2005, I have witnessed the growth of collective losses to our CMHC (s) threaten the fiscal stability of our system and the lives and safety of our patients whose access to care is grossly impeded. Not only is the loss of revenue a negative impact to our financial viability but the cost of staffing to administer the program is also burdensome. All ten CMHCs have staff resources dedicated to billing, tracking invoices with DHHS to ensure spend down is met, adjusting charges, reporting and trying to collect payments for this unique NH program. At a time when we struggle with workforce there are certainly more financially fruitful ways in which this time could be spent.

The income limits for the Medicaid Spenddown Program were not adjusted in DECADES until the 2020 law was passed. We are asking you to pass HB 1526 to reinstate the increased income limits. Thank you for taking my testimony and thank you to Rep. Snow and the co-sponsors of HB 1526 for submitting this critically important bill. I am happy to provide any additional information that the Committee may request.

Respect

Advocacy

Integrity

Stewardship

Excellence



1 Pillsbury Street, Suite 200  
Concord, NH 03301  
603.225.6633  
[www.nhcbha.org](http://www.nhcbha.org)

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1526**  
**HOUSE HHS COMMITTEE – January 25, 2022**

Good morning. My name is Maggie Pritchard. I am the CEO of Lakes Region Mental Health Center and the Treasurer of the NH Community Behavioral Health Association (CBHA), representing all ten community mental health centers.

CBHA strongly supports HB 1526, which will lift the suspension of the 2020 law that increased the Medicaid spenddown amount for the first time in 30 years. The 2020 law – HB 1639, which was passed by this Committee unanimously - lifted both a financial burden on many of our Medicaid clients and a burden on the community mental health centers. But before it could take full effect, it was suspended by a paragraph added to the 2021 budget bill. This bill, HB 1526, will remove the suspension and put the increased spenddown amount back in place for the rest of this budget cycle.

The Medicaid Spenddown Program, which is also known as Medicaid In and Out, means that, if you meet all of the criteria to be eligible for a Medicaid program but make too much money according to the income limits for the program, you may be eligible for Medicaid with a spenddown. Having this option is the ONLY way some people are able to qualify for Medicaid, which gives them access to necessary medical and behavioral health services.

A spenddown is like a deductible that is based on your income that you must meet each month. The spenddown limit of \$591 per month for a single person means that, if they have income of \$1000 per month, they need to spend \$409 of that income on health care before qualifying for Medicaid. They then have to show DHHS medical bills or receipts before their Medicaid becomes active.

Many providers will not see the person while they are “out” but as community mental health centers are required by RSA 135-C to provide services to eligible individuals without regard to ability to pay. In 2019, the ten centers incurred losses of over \$7.5M from write-offs because of the spenddown requirement; our center currently has 160 spenddown clients, lost over \$336K in that year.

Individuals in the spenddown category have to repeat this routine of getting their income down month after month to stay on Medicaid and continue to be qualified for services. Please ask yourself what health care and medical costs you would spend \$409 on every month, and then have only \$591 of your \$1000 income left for rent, heat, food, and transportation. This is a month-to-month struggle for the poorest of the poor, and for those with mental illness, it unnecessarily adds stress and suffering and keeps many in a cycle of poverty.

The income limits for the Medicaid Spenddown Program have not been adjusted in decades, the passage of this law in 2020 sought to remedy this, therefore we are asking you to pass HB 1526 to reinstate this important legislation. Thank you for your time and a special thank you to Rep. Snow and the co-sponsors of HB 1526 for understanding the significance of this issue and taking action. I am happy to entertain questions should anyone have any.



National Alliance on Mental Illness

# NAMI New Hampshire

January 25, 2022

Honorable Chairman Mark Pearson  
House Health and Human Services and Elderly Affairs Committee  
Legislate Office Building Room 205  
North Main Street  
Concord, NH 03301

Re: NAMI New Hampshire's support of HB 1526-FN

Dear Chairman and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today. My name is Holly Stevens, and I am the Director of Public Policy at NAMI New Hampshire, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. NAMI NH is a non-profit, non-partisan, grassroots organization whose mission is to improve the lives of all people impacted by mental illness and suicide through support, education and advocacy. On behalf of NAMI NH, I am here today to speak in favor of HB 1526-FN, relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

When a person meets all Medicaid eligibility requirements for one of the Medicaid programs, but is over the income limit, he or she can receive partial coverage through the In and Out Medicaid program. Every month (or every six months depending on which time duration a person chooses) there is an amount that each person must incur in medical bills that reduces their net income to \$591. After they have spent enough to reach a net monthly income of \$591, Medicaid benefits are turned on for the remainder of the month. Because many of these people simply cannot survive on \$591 per month, either individuals go without necessary medical services or providers, many of them safety net providers, don't get paid for the services that are provided.

Year over year, due to inflation, the costs of all goods and services increase. Yet, the spend down threshold in NH's Medicaid In and Out program has remained stagnant. Per the bill's fiscal note, as of last October there were 6,073 Granite Staters subject to this income spend down simply to receive their necessary medical care. The fiscal note goes on to state that if HB 1526-FN were to pass, 998 of these individuals would be able to qualify for one of the other Medicaid programs without a spend down. While it may seem like a small number, for those 998 people this would make a huge difference in their lives, not only financially, but administratively as well. They would no longer have to send medical bills to DHHS to prove they had spent down to the threshold of \$591. For the remaining 5,075 people, it would mean a few extra dollars for food, gas, or rent. Under HB 1526-FN, for a household of one, the threshold would increase to \$901 and for a household of two, the threshold would increase to \$1,047. According to the 2021 New Hampshire Residential Rental Cost Survey Report, the median rent for a two-bedroom apartment in New Hampshire is \$1,498, well more than the income threshold that this bill would establish.

Not only is the Medicaid In and Out program difficult for beneficiaries, it also creates administrative burdens for both providers and the state. DHHS has to process and keep track of medical bills for each person on the program, and providers have no way of knowing when a patient's Medicaid

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InfoLine: 800-242-6264 • Tel. 603-225-5359 • Fax 603-228-8848 • [info@naminh.org](mailto:info@naminh.org) / [www.NAMINH.org](http://www.NAMINH.org)

benefit has been turned back on, without checking daily. Increasing the income limit would reduce the number of people on the program, thus leading to less administrative burden and cost to the state and its many providers who serve these patients.

For these reasons, NAMI NH strongly supports HB 1526-FN and urges the committee vote ought to pass.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Holly A. Stevens", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. There is a faint pinkish smudge or stamp above the signature.

Holly A. Stevens, Esq.

HB 1526-FN - AS INTRODUCED

2022 SESSION

22-2110

05/04

HOUSE BILL            ***1526-FN***

AN ACT                relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

SPONSORS:            Rep. Snow, Hills. 19; Rep. Schapiro, Ches. 16; Rep. McMahon, Rock. 7; Rep. Marsh, Carr. 8; Rep. Langley, Hills. 8; Rep. Wallner, Merr. 10; Sen. Rosenwald, Dist 13; Sen. Sherman, Dist 24

COMMITTEE:          Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs

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ANALYSIS

This bill repeals the suspension for the biennium ending June 30, 2023, of 2020, 39:1, which required the department of health and human services to amend the income eligibility standard for the "in and out medical assistance" policy. The bill also makes an appropriation to the department of health and human services to implement the revised income eligibility standard.

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Explanation:          Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.  
Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough.]~~  
Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

*In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Two*

AN ACT relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

*Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:*

1       1 Repeal. 2021, 91:424, suspending 2020, 39:1, which required the department of health and  
2 human services to amend the income eligibility standard for the "in and out medical assistance"  
3 policy, is repealed.

4       2 Appropriation; In and Out Medical Assistance. The sum of \$5,370,384 for the fiscal year  
5 ending June 30, 2023 is hereby appropriated to the department of health and human services to  
6 implement 2020; 39:1. The governor is authorized to draw a warrant for said sum out of any money  
7 in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

8       3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

**HB 1526-FN- FISCAL NOTE  
 AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State             County             Local             None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
<b>Appropriation</b>	\$0	\$5,370,384	\$0	\$0
<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Expenditures</b>	Indeterminable	\$1.9 million - \$7.7 million in state general funds; the same in matching federal funds	\$0	\$0
<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General federal funds	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other - Matching

**METHODOLOGY:**

This bill repeals Chapter 91:424, Laws of 2021, a provision in the budget trailer bill that suspended changes to the Medicaid In & Out program for the FY 22/23 biennium. Originally, Chapter 39:1, Laws of 2020 would have required the Department of Health and Human Services to amend the income eligibility standard for the In & Out population to less than or equal to 133 1/3 percent of the income limit contained in Section 1931 of the federal Social Security Act. By suspending this provision, the budget trailer bill delayed the changes (and associated cost) until July 1, 2023. This bill, by contrast, would restore the changes effective upon the bill's passage.

The Department states, as of October 2021, there were 6,073 individuals in the In & Out program, of whom 5,104 were in a household of one, 766 were in a household of two, and 203 were in a household of three or more. The current protected income limits are \$591 and \$675 for households of one and two, respectively.

The Department states that under the proposed change, the maximum protected income level under the In & Out program will increase from \$591 to \$901 for a household of one and from \$675 to \$1,047 for a household of two. This change would result in the elimination of the spend-down requirement for 998 individuals (920 in a household of one and 78 in a household of two), resulting in those individuals enrolling in a managed care organization rather than continuing to participate in the fee-for-service based In & Out program. The remaining 5,075 individuals will

remain in the fee-for-service program, and will have their spend-down amounts decreased by varying amounts.

With respect to the 998 individuals transitioning to managed care, the Department states that depending on the percentage of individuals who are dually-eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare, total costs will be between \$3.8 million and \$15.4 million per year, of which half (between \$1.9 million and \$7.7 million per year) would be paid for with state general funds and half with matching federal funds. The Department is unable to determine the cost for those individuals who will remain in the In & Out program but whose spend-down requirements will be reduced as a result of the proposed change.

This bill contains an appropriation of \$5,370,384 in FY23. The bill is effective upon passage, so it is unknown what costs, if any, will be incurred in FY22.

**AGENCIES CONTACTED:**

Department of Health and Human Services

**HB 1526-FN FISCAL NOTE  
 AS INTRODUCED**

AN ACT relative to income eligibility for in and out medical assistance.

**FISCAL IMPACT:**     State             County             Local             None

STATE:	Estimated Increase / (Decrease)			
	FY 2022	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025
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<b>Revenue</b>	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
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<b>Funding Source:</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> General	<input type="checkbox"/> Education	<input type="checkbox"/> Highway	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other -

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resulting in those individuals enrolling in a managed care organization rather than continuing to participate in the fee-for-service based In & Out program. The remaining 5,075 individuals will remain in the fee-for-service program, and will have their spend-down amounts decreased by varying amounts.

With respect to the 998 individuals transitioning to managed care, the Department states that depending on the percentage of individuals who are dually-eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare, total costs will be between \$7.6 million and \$15.4 million per year, of which half (between \$3.8 million and \$7.7 million per year) would be paid for with state general funds and half with matching federal funds. The Department is unable to determine the cost for those individuals who will remain in the In & Out program but whose spend-down requirements will be reduced as a result of the proposed change.

This bill contains an appropriation of \$5,370,384 in FY23. The bill is effective upon passage, so it is unknown what costs, if any, will be incurred in FY22.

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Department of Health and Human Services