

CELEBRATING: NHAHA ADVOCACY SUCCESSES 2018-2023

In the past five years, the New Hampshire Alliance for Healthy Aging (NHAHA) Advocacy has changed the conversation about how we age. Our advocacy work has positively impacted New Hampshire policy by drawing on the expertise and lived experience of older individuals and statewide stakeholders. Below are some of our advocacy highlights from 2018 to 2023.



NHAHA Advocacy serves as an important watchdog for key legislation and policy by leveraging the expertise of our members, building coalitions, and marshalling resources so that we are poised to respond to emerging issues.

- The NHAHA Advocacy team developed a system to actively monitor legislation and distribute a weekly newsletter to stakeholders that highlights key issues and requests calls to action. Monthly NHAHA Advocacy meetings solicit stakeholder input and ensure our advocacy is well informed and involves active participation.
- We successfully recruited many new grassroots advocates to testify on key bills, submit letters to the editor, or contact legislators to express support or opposition of key bills.



NHAHA Advocacy is a trusted and knowledgeable resource for legislators, policy makers and the media on policy issues related to aging in New Hampshire.

- Over the past several years, the NHAHA Advocacy team has hosted numerous in-district meetings with legislators and their constituents.
- We have cultivated legislative champions and are in regular contact with members of the media to comment on age-related matters.



NHAHA's vision guides our advocacy:

To create communities throughout New Hampshire that **advance culture, policies and services which support older adults and their families**, providing a wide range of choices that advance health, independence, and dignity.



CELEBRATING: NHAHA ADVOCACY SUCCESSES 2018-2023 CONTINUED



NHAHA Advocacy is instrumental in the passage of bipartisan public policy in statute and rules that ensure the system of care for healthy aging is strong, stable, and funded.

- Beginning with the 2017 legislative budget session, and with each budget session going forward, the NHAHA Advocacy team has been successful in advocating for rate increases for services provided under the Choices for Independence Program (CFI).
- In 2019, the NHAHA Advocacy team was successful in securing passage of a bill creating a new State Commission on Aging.
- The NHAHA Advocacy team successfully spearheaded passage of a comprehensive bill designed to increase access to home and community-based services for older people. This 2023 landmark legislation, System of Care for Healthy Aging, requires the NH Department of Health and Human Services to develop and implement a plan to increase rates for CFI providers, develop strategies to increase the health care workforce, improve and expedite the processing of Medicaid applications, and develop public facing dashboards to track service delivery and resource availability.



NHAHA Advocacy is an advocate for change at the local level.

- NHAHA Advocacy has worked together with members of the community and service providers to ensure that older adults have a choice on how and where they want to age. The advocacy work includes inviting municipalities and towns to join the conversation about what older adults need.
- We have expanded our partnerships to include organizations advocating for aligned priorities such as safe and walkable communities, access to healthy foods, and care options for caregivers that include childcare and care for aging parents.

As NHAHA's advocacy base grows, successful advocacy for change across the public and private sectors will continue, transforming care and developing innovative ways to **support older adults, our families, and our communities.**

