



NH Governor's Commission on Disability

Kelly A. Ayotte, Governor

Paul Van Blarigan, Chair

Charles J. Saia, Executive Director

April 15, 2025

Senator James Gray, Chairman
and Senators of Senate Finance Committee
New Hampshire State House
107 North Main Street
Concord, NH 03301

RE: Governor's Commission on Disability FY 2026/FY2027 Budget

Dear Chairman Gray and Senators,

I respectfully submit that the continued adequate funding of the Governor's Commission on Disability (GCD) is essential to ensure that the mandates delegated to the Commission are effectively carried out.

The FY2026/2027 Operating Budget as passed by the House of Representatives includes significant and substantial budget changes. The House Budget provides for the elimination of Class 050 Funds (part-time salaries) within AU 1004, in the amount of \$73,000 in FY2026 and \$75,000 in FY2027.

The eliminated Class 050 includes mixed funding from Other Funds and General Funds, as contained in the Governor's Recommended Budget and as delineated herein.

AU 1004 OTHER FUNDS CLASS 050

Under a recently approved Governor & Executive Council contract and agreement with the GCD and New Hampshire Education Department (NHED), the GCD is scheduled to receive up to \$90,000 for each year of the FY2026/FY2027 biennium to house the Statewide Independent Living Council (SILC) including the SILC Program Assistant and related administrative expenses. The contract provides for Class 050 salary in the amount of \$36,000.00 for FY2026 and \$37,000 for FY2027. The elimination and loss of the Class 050, Non-General Funds, will negate the contract between the GCD and NHED, resulting in an increase of \$25,211 (FY2026) and \$25,434 (FY2027) to General Funds. The position has been filled with the same employee since 2018, who effectively assists in the administration of the SILC program and is a valued asset to the GCD structure.

I respectfully request the restoration of the Governor's Recommended, Non-General, Other Funds, as referenced above.

AU 1004 GENERAL FUNDS CLASS 050

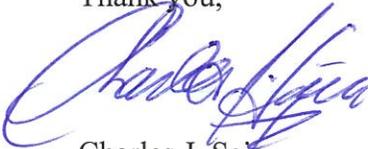
The Governor's Recommended Budget in Accounting Unit 1004 also has general funds for a part time employee in Class 050 in the amount of \$37,000 for FY2026 and \$38,000 for FY2027. A new employee will begin her tenure with the GCD on May 2, 2025, as the ADA Coordinator. I suggest that this position is critical to the GCD as further explained below.

By way of background, in 2018, Governor Sununu tasked the Governor's Commission on Disability to form a group [(later named The Workforce Focus Group (WFG))] with various invited stakeholders at the table (one of which was the NH Division of Personnel) to examine issues regarding the employment of individuals with a disability. One of the key findings from this effort was the recognized need for an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) Coordinator with State Government. Taking this from a concept to reality, the current budget appropriates for a part time position, as an employee of the GCD. The GCD will work closely with NH Division of Personnel, so that the ADA Coordinator will be a resource to SoNH Sister agencies to make the State of NH a model employer, with a focus upon those with a disability.

The loss of the ADA Coordinator position will leave a void where a recommendation was made to solve an issue. Each position at the GCD is uniquely designed to work with other positions while providing ADA information about the specific subject matter of the position.

I respectfully request the restoration of the Governor's Recommended, General Funds, as referenced above.

Thank you,



Charles J. Sara
Executive Director