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**NAMI California**  
1851 Heritage Lane #  
150  
Sacramento, CA 95815  
916-567-0163

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Jacqui Irwin  
California State Assembly Member  
California State Capitol, Room 5119  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: AB 1178 (Irwin) Medi-Cal: Serious Mental Illness Drugs – SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Irwin:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - California (NAMI-CA), I am writing to express support of your AB 1178, which will improve access to crucial medications for Medi-Cal beneficiaries with a serious mental illness by removing unnecessary barriers.

NAMI-CA is the statewide affiliate of the country's largest mental health advocacy organization, the National Alliance on Mental Illness. Our over 110,000 active advocates and 62 affiliates include many people living with serious mental illnesses, their families, and supporters. NAMI-CA advocates on their behalf, providing education and support to its members and the broader community.

Psychotropic medications can provide significant relief from the symptoms of serious mental illness and help individuals maintain a healthy life in the community. However, medication policies for mental illness have for too long presented unacceptable barriers. NAMI California believes that every person with a serious mental illness is entitled to the same level of service afforded other physical illnesses. AB 1178 seeks to improve access to psychiatric medications for Medi-Cal patients who have a serious mental illness by removing discriminatory prior authorization requirements, allowing adults to have a 90-day supply of medication, and permitting pharmacists to provide refills for lost or stolen medication and for individuals with less than 7 days of remaining medication.

For these reasons, NAMI-CA is pleased to support AB 1178. I may be reached at [jessica@namica.org](mailto:jessica@namica.org) or (916) 567-0163 with any questions you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jessica Cruz, MPA/HS  
Chief Executive Officer