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April 16, 2021

The Honorable Brian Maienschein
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol, Room 4139
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 935 Telehealth: mental health – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Berman:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - California (NAMI-CA), I am writing to express support of your AB 935, which assures telehealth is broadly used by health plans to treat children and mothers in need of mental health support.

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.

While Medi-Cal enrollees with serious mental illness (among adults) or serious emotional disturbances (among youth) can currently access mental health support through phone-based service delivery, health plans are not currently mandated to do so on a permanent and on-going process. As you know, the COVID-19 public health emergency has prompted most health care systems to quickly adapt and provide a multitude of health care services via telephone or video conference. AB 935 will ensure this convenient method of service provision continues to be available long-term to health plans' network providers, pregnant and postpartum parents, and children enrolled in private health plans.

For these reasons, NAMI-CA is pleased to support AB 935. I may be reached at jessica@namica.org or (916) 567-0163 with any questions you may have. Thank you.

Sincerely,



Jessica Cruz, MPA/HS
Chief Executive Officer