

Jessica Cruz, MPA/HS
Chief Executive Officer

Patrick Courneya, MD
Board President

Guy Qvistgaard, MFT
Past President

Chief Joseph Farrow
Vice President

Christina Roup
Treasurer

Jei Africa, PsyD, MSCP
Member

Cindy Beck
Member

Harold Turner
Member

Armando Sandoval
Member

James Randall
Member

Gustavo Loera, EdD
Member

Andrew Bertagnolli, PhD
Member

Paul Lu
Member

NAMI California

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

April 16, 2021

The Honorable Tom Lackey
California State Assembly Member
California State Capitol, Room 5097
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: AB 998 Incarcerated persons: health records – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Lackey:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - California (NAMI-CA), I am writing to express support of your AB 998 which enables sharing the mental health records of a person transferred from or between the California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (CDCR), the State Department of State Hospitals (DSH), and/or county agencies.

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.

NAMI-CA believes that state and local mental health authorities must work closely in conjunction with state and local correctional and law enforcement agencies to develop strategies and programs for compassionate intervention by law enforcement, jail diversion, treatment of individuals with serious mental illnesses who are incarcerated, and discharge planning and community reintegration services for individuals with serious mental illnesses released from correctional facilities. When individuals with a serious mental illness are treated under the care of county jails or mental health providers, DSH, or CDCR, it is critical to the quality of their care that medical records be transferred among these state and local agencies.

For these reasons, NAMI-CA is pleased to support AB 998. 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