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April 14, 2021

The Honorable Susan Talamantes Eggman
California State Senator
California State Capitol, Room 4052
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 507 (Eggman) Mental health services: assisted outpatient treatment – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Eggman:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - California (NAMI-CA), I am writing to express support of your SB 507, which makes important changes to the Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Act. Specifically, SB 507 makes individuals transitioning from conservatorship eligible for AOT, permits remote testimony in AOT proceedings, and requires information regarding the person's capacity to give informed consent regarding psychotropic medication to be provided to the court.

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 involuntary inpatient and outpatient commitment and court-ordered treatment authorized by the LPS Act and directed under the AOT Act should be used as a last resort and only when cost-benefit analysis shows it to be in the best interests of the individual. All people should have the right to make their own decisions about medical treatment. However, NAMI-CA is aware that there are individuals with serious mental illnesses such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder who, at times, due to their illness, lack insight or good judgment about their need for medical treatment.

We support SB 507's goal to link vulnerable individuals leaving a conservatorship to AOT services as a means of reducing their likelihood to return to a state of unmanaged mental illness and return to conservatorship or other restrictive mental health services and settings – a problem identified in the California State Auditor's 2020 report on the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act.

For these reasons, NAMI-CA is pleased to support SB 507. 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