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NAMI California

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

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Steven M. Glazer
California State Senator
California State Capitol, Room 5108
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: SB 782 (Glazer) Assisted outpatient treatment programs – SUPPORT

Dear Senator Glazer:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness - California (NAMI-CA), I am writing to express support of your SB 782, which makes individuals transitioning from conservatorship eligible for Assisted Outpatient Treatment (AOT) Act services.

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 782's goal of linking 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 782. 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