



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI California

April 1, 2022

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The Honorable Chris Holden, Chair
Assembly Committee on Appropriations
1021 O Street, Suite 5650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1816 (Bryan) Reentry Housing and Workforce Development Program – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Holden:

NAMI-CA is in support of AB 1816 (Bryan), which will provide competitive grants to counties, homeless Continuums of Care, and community-based nonprofits to fund housing and reentry services and workforce development for people recently released from incarceration who are experiencing or at risk of falling into homelessness.

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 housing options should offer appropriate supportive services, including but not limited to: case management; tenancy support; clinical services; employment training and education; transportation; and crisis intervention. Housing should also be monitored by the appropriate licensing and enforcement agencies for quality, including cleanliness and safety.

AB 1816 proposes that the state require the Department of Housing and Community Development (HCD) in collaboration with community-based organizations to create the Reentry Housing and Workforce Development program utilizing evidence-based housing and wraparound services. These programs will bring together comprehensive resources to assist eligible participants at least 90 days prior to their release from prison, including housing navigation and tenancy acquisition services. Through these integrated services, people recently released from incarceration will find the necessary housing and employment support that will ultimately save the state money, provide a much-needed stable foundation for successful reentry, and help meet the state's goals for solving homelessness.

For these reasons, NAMI-CA supports AB 1816. I may be reached at jessica@namica.org or (916) 567-0163. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jessica Cruz,
MPA/HS
Chief Executive Officer

Cc: Members and Consultant to Assembly Committee on Appropriations
The Honorable Isaac Bryan, California State Assembly