



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI California

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April 18, 2022

The Honorable Jim Wood, Chair
Assembly Committee on Health
1020 N Street, Room 390
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 1859 (Levine) Mental health services – **SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Wood:

NAMI-CA supports AB 1859 (Levine), which will help improve mental health outcomes and ensure timely access to care by requiring that a patient released from involuntary mental health hospitalization receives authorization and an appointment for care within 48 hours of their release.

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 California believes that individuals with mental illnesses must have timely access to treatments that have been recognized as effective by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). NAMI California is adamant that individuals with mental illness have timely access to clinically appropriate medications, evidence-based services, and treatment, including psychotherapy, that are provided in a person-centered approach.

AB 1859 requires that the location of the facilities providing the mental health services will be within reasonable proximity of the business or residence of the patient. This bill will help create parity in the provision of mental health care services compared to physical health care services, provide urgent support to an individual suffering from a mental health emergency and help save lives. For these reasons, NAMI-CA supports AB 1859. 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 Health
The Honorable Marc Levine, California State Assembly