



National Alliance on Mental Illness

NAMI California

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April 1, 2022

The Honorable Reggie Jones-Sawyer, Chair
Assembly Committee on Public Safety
1021 O Street, Room 5210
Sacramento, CA 95814

**Re: AB 2526 (Cooper) Incarcerated persons: health records.
– SUPPORT**

Dear Assembly Member Jones-Sawyer:

NAMI-CA is in support of AB 2526 (Cooper), which will require the mental health records of inmates transferred between California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation county facilities be disclosed, by electronic means, when possible, within seven days of the individual's transfer; for those being transferred to the Department of State Hospitals, the mental health records shall be disclosed at the time of transfer or earlier.

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.

When State correctional facilities do not receive an individual's mental health history at the time of transfer, it can impact safety of the individual and staff, and is costly because in many instances, it has resulted in the duplicate treatment/diagnostic testing by the receiving facility. Although current law offers a variety of statutory schemes discussing the transfer of patient records for the public, none apply in a correctional setting. Having medical records transferred with the individual will ensure the evaluators have complete records to comply with the statutory requirements, as well as provide continuity of care for individuals as they are transferred between facilities.

AB 2526 will require the transmission of mental health records upon transfer of custody, or within seven days of transfer, ensuring a greater continuity of care. For these reasons, NAMI-CA supports AB 2526. 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 Public Safety
The Honorable Jim Cooper, California State Assembly