



NAMI California

National Alliance on Mental Illness

Jessica Cruz, MPA/HS

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April 1, 2022

The Honorable Buffy Wicks, Chair
Assembly Committee on Housing & Community Development
1021 O Street, Room 4240
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: AB 2547 (Nazarian) Housing Stabilization to Prevent and End Homelessness Among Older Adults and People with Disabilities Act – SUPPORT

Dear Assembly Member Wicks:

NAMI-CA is in support of AB 2547 (Nazarian), which will offer stable housing for older Californians and people with disabilities, including mental illness, facing or experiencing homelessness by providing housing subsidies.

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.

Under AB 2547, housing stabilization subsidies would enable an estimated 20,000-25,000 older adults and people living with disabilities to access or keep their housing on an annual basis. For the first time, this program would establish targeted eligibility criteria to prevent Californians from falling into homelessness.

Housing is critical to recovery and must be available to individuals with mental illness. For these reasons, NAMI-CA support AB 2547. 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 Housing & Community Development
The Honorable Adrin Nazarian, California State Assembly

