National Alliance on Mental Illness

Bringing Mental Healthcare to the Ballot

Questions for Candidates

1. Mental health disorders affect one in four people, and one in seventeen live with a serious mental illness. Mental illnesses are common and highly treatable, yet millions struggle because they cannot get treatment. ***What steps will you take to address access to treatment for people living with mental illness?***

2. Half of all lifetime cases of mental illness begin by age 14, three-quarters by age 24, affecting many in our education systems. ***What will you do to promote early identification and treatment of mental illness?***

3. A key challenge for our future is building a healthcare system that addresses the needs of underserved populations, such as racial and ethnic communities, older Americans, and rural areas. ***What will you do to address disparities in mental healthcare?***

4. Lack of appropriate and affordable housing is one of the most significant barriers to living in the community for people with serious mental illness. ***What will you do to address housing needs for people with mental illness?***

5. Only one in three adults with serious mental illness is employed, even though most want to work and contribute to their independence. ***What will you do to help people with mental illness return to work?***

6. Over five times as many people with mental illness are in jails and prisons than in hospitals. ***What will you do to reduce the numbers of people with mental illness in our criminal justice systems?***

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