

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
[Date]

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NAMI [State] Calls On Legislature: Don't Cut Mental Health

[City, State]— NAMI [state] is asking legislators to protect and strengthen mental health care services rather than impose new mental health budget cuts above and beyond those that already have been made in recent years.

The request came [at a rally held at the Capitol] [in a letter sent to the chairs of the Budget Committees] or [other action].

“We have a mental health crisis in [state],” said [NAME], NAMI executive director . “The lives of some of our most vulnerable citizens are literally at stake. As unemployment and economic distress has risen, the need for mental health care has also increased.”

“Cutting mental health is penny wise, but pound foolish because it only shifts costs elsewhere—to emergency room, schools, police and local court. We end up with broken families and more homelessness. , People living with mental illness end up on the street or dead.”

In [state] approximately [state number] adults and [state number] children and teenagers face serious mental illness. Most people living with mental illness can lead fulfilling, productive lives, but only if they have access to treatment.”

“Protect and strengthen mental health,” [NAME] said. “[State] needs to invest in proven, cost-effective, community-based treatment and services that promote recovery. It’s an investment in people.”

ADD BULLETS or PARAGRAPH: List facts about impact of cuts over last few years or else include a paragraph and short quote from a person affected by mental illness who has benefited from a program or been hurt by cuts. Total length of the press release should be about 400 words. The length here is about 300.

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The National Alliance on Mental Illness is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to improving the lives of individuals and families affected by mental illness.