



October 4, 2017

The Honorable Roy Blunt  
The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Blunt and Stabenow:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) I am writing to offer our strong support for your legislation to expand the current Excellence in Mental Health Act program (S 1905). As the nation's largest organization representing people living with mental illness and their families, NAMI is pleased to support this legislation.

NAMI has been proud to support the Excellence in Mental Health Act since its initial passage back in 2014. The establishment of a Federally Qualified Behavioral Health Center demonstration program at CMS has been an important advancement for our fragmented and underfunded public mental health system. The durable standards that SAMHSA and CMS have developed were long overdue. The eight states that are participating in the prospective payment system demonstration are creating a pathway for the nation. The example they are providing for the rest of the country needs to be taken to scale. NAMI supports your efforts to expand this program to additional states.

Public sector programs in behavioral health have historically lagged behind those in primary health care. NAMI greatly appreciates your efforts in passing the Excellence in Mental Health Act and now bringing forward legislation to expand on its success. Thank you for your leadership in introducing S 1905. NAMI looks forward to supporting your efforts to advance it in the Senate this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Giliberti". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mary Giliberti, J.D.  
Chief Executive Officer