



February 2, 2022

The Honorable Martin Walsh, Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Ave NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Walsh:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), I want to express my gratitude for your leadership in elevating mental health and substance use with last week's release of the "2022 Report to Congress on the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act (MHPAEA)." I am also grateful for your willingness to talk about your own mental health journey, as doing so plays a significant role in normalizing mental health conditions and seeking help. I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss ways we can work together to help increase access to care for people who are impacted by mental illness or substance use disorders.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization dedicated to building better lives for the millions of people affected by mental illness. The communities we serve and advocate for are as diverse as our nation. NAMI is a voice for youth and adolescents, veterans and service members, individuals involved with the criminal justice system, those experiencing homelessness, family caregivers and all people who are impacted by mental illness. We are all connected by the shared hope of new and innovative treatments, improved health care coverage and support through recovery.

There is no health care without mental health care. Yet, NAMI's members have systematically experienced discrimination at the hands of health insurance plans that have routinely denied needed mental health care—many times to tragic effect. Sadly, your report highlights why aggressive oversight is necessary to ensure compliance with the law.

Thank you for making health parity a top enforcement priority and I look forward to discussing ways that NAMI can support your efforts so we can achieve equitable mental health coverage in all forms of health coverage. Hannah Wesolowski, NAMI's Chief Advocacy Officer, can be reached at [hwesolowski@nami.org](mailto:hwesolowski@nami.org) to arrange logistics for a meeting.

Sincerely,

Daniel H. Gillison, Jr.  
Chief Executive Officer