

# **FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

115TH CONGRESS

#### Invest in mental health and innovation

- Reject Medicaid caps or block grants that drive down innovation and force state program cuts, putting individuals with mental illness and families at risk
- Support Medicaid expansion, with income-based eligibility, to provide coverage and a pathway to self-sufficiency for individuals with mental health conditions
- Ensure insurance market reforms include mental health and substance use disorder coverage in every health plan and at the same level (parity) as other health conditions
- Increase investment at NIH and NIMH in understanding, diagnosing and treating mental illness

### **Promote early intervention**

 Promote early intervention for serious mental illness through continued federal funding set aside in the Mental Health Block Grant to support research-based First Episode Psychosis programs

## Improve integration of care

- Improve integration of health and mental health care through policies and financing that:
  - Support the Collaborative Care Model, integrating behavioral health expertise into primary care
  - Expand Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics that integrate primary care into behavioral health care clinics

## Support caregivers, military service members & veterans

- Support our nation's caregivers by extending existing national caregiver support programs to include family caregivers of people with mental illness
- Increase capacity for mental health care and promote continuity of care for military service members and veterans with mental health conditions

#### End the criminalization of mental illness

- Reduce the high cost of jailing people with mental illness by investing in policies and funding to ensure that every community has:
  - o 24/7 behavioral health crisis response teams
  - Subacute and respite care
  - Assertive Community Treatment and Forensic Assertive Community Treatment (ACT/FACT) teams

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization working to build better lives for the millions of Americans affected by mental illness.