



April 1, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: FY2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies Appropriations

RE: FY2024 Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations

Dear Chairwoman Murray:

On behalf of the National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), we are grateful for the historic and bipartisan investments in mental health services in recent years. These investments, prioritized by both Republican and Democrat Administrations and Congresses, are transforming mental health services across the country. Mental health affects every American, and we look forward to working with you in the year ahead to ensure that investments in mental health services remain at the top of our nation's priority list.

Congress has provided unprecedented leadership that is accelerating access to mental health services in every community. As just one example, with the passage and recent nationwide launch of the 988 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, Congress has invested in a future where any person in crisis can get the help they need. This bold goal for our future can only be achieved by continued Congressional leadership in sustaining these critical investments over time.

NAMI is the nation's largest grassroots mental health organization, and as an alliance, we are 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, people experiencing homelessness, family caregivers, and every American impacted by mental illness. We are all connected by the shared hope of new and innovative treatments, improved health care coverage, increased connections to care and support through recovery.

As you set our nation's budget priorities, we urge you to continue to make our nation's mental health care one of those key national priorities. You and your colleagues on both sides of the aisle on the Appropriations Committee have made unprecedented investments in mental health, substance use, and suicide prevention in the last several years and we must not miss the opportunity to continue to leverage those investments for our critical need and opportunity to transform mental health care in our country.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed a simmering mental health crisis in our country that has left people of all backgrounds and socio-economic statuses untreated or undertreated for their mental health conditions. This includes our nation's children, who are directly affected by our nation's mental health emergency, with recent CDC data showing that nearly 1 in 3 teen girls seriously considered suicide in 2021. We must

and we can do better to help our children and all of our loved ones in crisis. This requires continued significant and sound investments in the 988 and mental health crisis system and mental health services at large.

For Fiscal Year 2024 Appropriations, we seek your continued partnership and support for no less than FY2023 funding levels for mental health programs funded in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies (Labor, HHS) and Commerce, Justice, Science and Related agencies (CJS) Appropriations bills as follows:

LABOR, HHS BILL: HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

1. 9-8-8 Suicide & Crisis Lifeline

Account: Health and Human Services; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); Mental and Behavioral Health

Funding Request: FY2024 \$836 million for operations of 988 at state and local call centers as well as the national back up centers to ensure that they have capacity to meet the anticipated increase in demand.

Final Funding FY2023: \$501.6 million

2. Community Mental Health Services Block Grant

Account: Health and Human Services; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); Mental Health; Mental Health Block Grant

Funding Request: FY2024 \$1.653 billion and **double the current set-aside for crisis services to 10%**

Final Funding FY2023: \$1.01 billion and 5% set-aside for crisis services

3. National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Account: Health and Human Services; National Institute of Health, National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH)

Funding Request: FY2024 \$2.54 billion

Final Funding FY2023: \$2.338 billion

4. Pediatric Mental Health Care Access program

Account: Health and Human Services (HHS); Health Resources and Services Administration (HRSA)

Funding Request: FY2024 \$14 million

Final Funding FY2023: \$13 million

5. Mental Health Crisis Response Partnership Pilot Program

Account: Health and Human Services; Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA); Strengthening Community Crisis Response Systems

Funding Request: FY2024 \$100 million

Final Funding FY2023: \$20 million

CJS BILL: DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

1. Justice and Mental Health Collaboration Program, JMHCP (formerly the Mentally Ill Offenders Treatment and Crime Reduction Act, MIOTCRA)

Account: Department of Justice/Bureau of Justice Assistance/Mental Health Collaboration Program

Funding Request: FY2024 \$50 million

Final Funding FY2023: \$45 million

2. Law Enforcement De-Escalation Training Act of 2022

Account: Department of Justice/Byrne/JAG/COPS

Funding Request: FY2024 \$20 million

Authorization level for 2024: \$20 million

3. Crisis Stabilization and Reentry Act

Account: Department of Justice/Byrne/JAG

Funding Request: FY2024 \$10 million

Final Funding FY2023: \$10 million

We are grateful for your consideration of these requests, which will provide the critical resources needed to fight our country's ongoing mental health crisis.

Again, thank you for your leadership in transforming mental health care in America. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these requests, please contact mlinskey@nami.org.

Sincerely,



Hannah Wesolowski
Chief Advocacy Officer
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)



Michael Linskey
Director of Congressional Affairs
National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)